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STEAD'S *REVIEW*

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FORTNIGHTLY

MARCH 17TH
1917

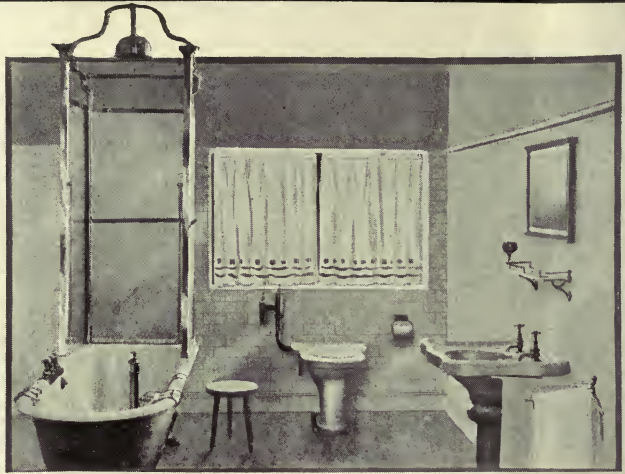
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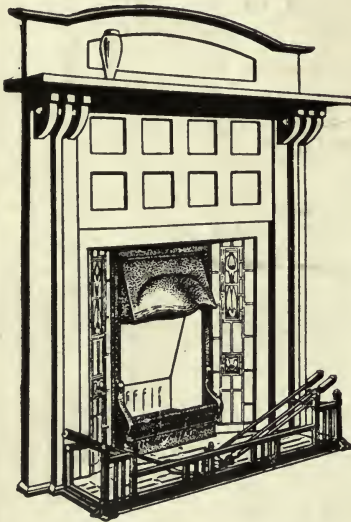


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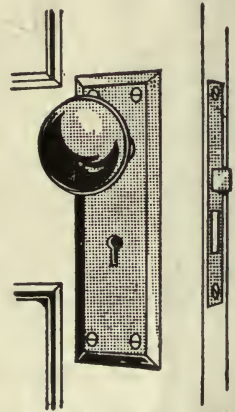
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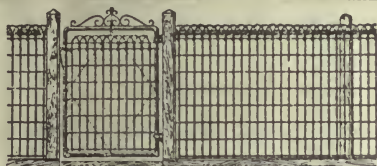
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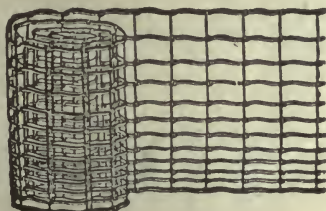
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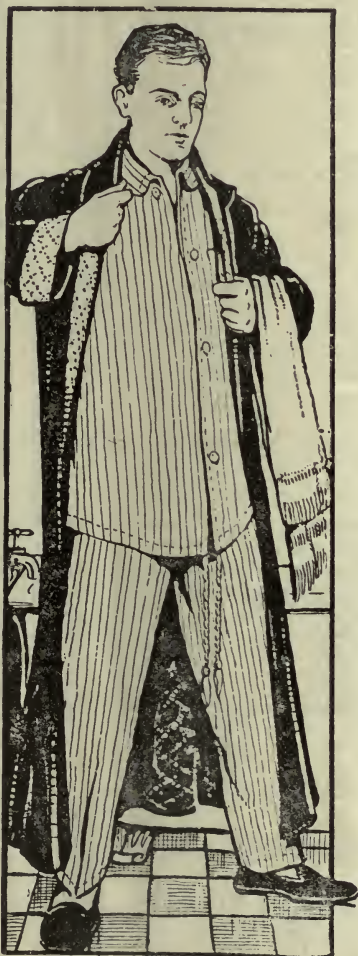
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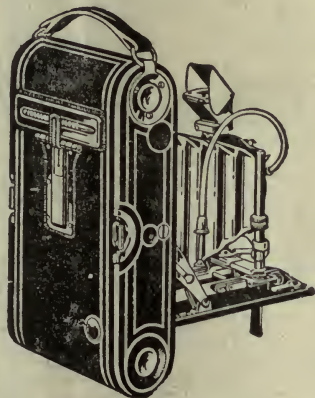
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CONTENTS OF STEAD'S REVIEW

For MARCH 17th, 1917.

	PAGE		PAGE
The German Retirement	245	Frontispiece	
Progress of the World—		Progress of the World (Continued)—	
A Crowded Fortnight	245	Germany, Mexico and Peru	257
The Somme Retirement	245	The Submarine Blockade	257
The Bapaume Triangle	246	The Raider in the Indian Ocean	258
Retirement or Retreat?	246	The Commonwealth	258
The Peronne Salient	246	History in Caricature	261
On This the Issue Depends	247	Will The War End This Year? ..	267
Good News from Mesopotamia	247	The Re-modelling of a Nation ..	271
Strategy or Collapse?	247	A Napoleonic Situation, But No Bonaparte!	273
The Russian Advance	249	The New Brooms	274
The Eastern and Other Fronts	249	L. J. Maxse Exulteth	276
America Nearer War	250	Russia and England	277
Will It Advantage Us?	250	Robbing Posterity	278
America Not One of the Allies	251	Japanese Progress	279
How the Americans Could Help	251	Winston Churchill on Germany	279
The Last American Loan	251	Labour After the War	279
£51,000,000 Loan Will Cost £8,400,000!	252	"Yours Truly"—Or?	280
The Securities Demanded	252	Catechism of the War—XXXVII.	281
Physician, Heal Thyself	252	National Efficiency. By J. A. Butler	285
Ireland Easy in Comparison	253	Financial and Business Quarter	287
Will Force Ever Succeed?	253		
Will the Government Give Home Rule?	253		
The Irish Manifesto	254		
A Hope Not Realised	254		
The British Man-Power Problem	256		
Unfortunate Rivalry	256		
The Dardanelles Commission	256		

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Rear view, showing the excavator buckets and the trench and breastworks.



MARCH 10, 1917.

A Crowded Fortnight.

Rarely since the war began has there been a more momentous fortnight. Since last I wrote the United States Congress has shown that it approves of the arming of American merchantmen, which probably makes war certain. The Germans, for the first time since they dug in on the Aisne, have made a notable retirement in the west. The Army in Mesopotamia has retrieved our position, is even now at the gates of Bagdad. The Irish Party has most determinedly revived the Home Rule question, and, as a result of the Prime Minister's statement, has decided to oppose the Government in every possible way. Owing to the shortage of shipping the Home Government has taken over the merchant ships of the Empire. The submarine blockade, because of the manner in which it has interrupted neutral sailings, has caused a food shortage in Great Britain, which, unless the menace be removed, will become serious. A further change in the Government of Russia is foreshadowed, Bohemia is being arbitrarily divided up by the Austrians. Details of German plots to embroil the United States with Mexico and Japan, and particulars of enemy efforts to induce Indians to rise, and Peruvians to become

pirates, have been made public. The Swedish Government has announced that a new situation has arisen, which may possibly involve the country in war. Nearer home, a raider has appeared in the Indian Ocean, accusations of bribery and corruption have been made against the Prime Minister, and a general election has been forced, making it impossible for the selected Australian Delegates to go to London to attend the Imperial War Conference. Altogether fourteen days of thrilling happenings.

The Somme Retirement.

The map which frontispieces this number shows the scene of the great Franco-British offensive which began on July 1st of last year. In the first rush the French won almost to Peronne, and the British captured a considerable area, pushing forward to Longueval. By steady, stubborn fighting Haig won trench after trench, position after position, until, by the close of the year, the Germans had been pushed back beyond the Peronne-Bapaume road due east of Combles, and had been forced to abandon all their positions south of a line from Bapaume to Beaumont-Hamel. The time had obviously come, predicted by ex-

perts, when what is known as the Bapaume salient had become untenable. Reports are, as usual, most contradictory. On the same day authoritative statements are made to the effect that the enemy are being forced from their positions by the terrific hail of British shells, by the overwhelming attack of infantry, and to the effect that the German retreat is being carried out on a pre-arranged plan, carefully and methodically. It is pretty evident that the German withdrawal, whatever its cause, is being done cleverly. Experts have all along asserted that to abandon a large stretch of territory in face of a superior foe would certainly involve serious loss, if not disaster. The enemy, however, have managed to evacuate with the loss of but few men, cannon or machine guns. Those captured have obviously been purposely sacrificed to make sure the safe retirement of the main forces. Although at present only the places due west of Bapaume have been abandoned, we may, I think, confidently count on the enemy giving up the whole of the isosceles triangle based on the eleven miles long Bapaume-Hebuterne front.

The Bapaume Triangle.

This triangle, all that is left the enemy of the famous Bapaume salient, has its apex at Beaurains, opposite Arras, which town is in Allied hands. Its two sides, namely, Beaurains-Bapaume and Beaurains-Hebuterne respectively, are each about fifteen miles long, so that when the triangle is evacuated, and the enemy fall back on the Bapaume-Beaurains line, they will have a front to hold eleven miles shorter than that they are now defending. By this retirement the Germans, it is true, surrender to the Allies some sixty square miles of territory, a greater slice than we have yet been able to win, but they actually give up little of real importance, considerably shorten the front they have to defend, and presumably fall back to exceedingly strong positions carefully prepared beforehand. It may be, of course, that this retirement is entirely due to the superiority of the British artillery, and is but the prelude to a much more important withdrawal. On the whole, though, in view of the orderly manner in which the retreat has been carried out, and the far-sighted manner in which the Germans have demonstrated they plan military movements, I think we may assume that this present retirement is merely a rectification of the battle-front, the evacuation of a salient it was obviously dangerous to hold on to any longer.

Retirement or Retreat?

This ordered withdrawal makes one rather inclined to believe the report of the correspondent of *The New York Times*, in Germany, who some three months ago visited the west after having spent the summer in the east and in Roumania. He states that on his return he hardly recognised the old front, so greatly had the Germans altered it. According to him, the enemy, profiting by the experience they got in the Verdun and Somme offensives, had entirely remodelled their system of defences. He foreshadowed minor retirements along the whole front, especially in the Somme area, where the constant hail of shells made it impossible for them to carry out the improvements in their defences they now deemed necessary, if the greatly strengthened Allied artillery were to be effectively resisted. These withdrawals would shorten their front, but would not lay bare any vital point. He refers to triple lines of defences immediately west of Bapaume, and to many series of defensive earth works, built on the new model, stretching right back to the Belgian frontier. He may not have reported what he saw correctly, but it is clear enough that the present evacuation is part of a well-thought-out plan. If the abandonment of the Bapaume salient is due to lack of men, is caused by the need of shortening the western front, then it is of immense importance. If, on the other hand, it is merely the surrender of a dominated position, the retention of which matters relatively little, then the only result is to hand over to us a small slice of shell-shattered territory which we will have to set to work to transform into a strong defensive position.

The Peronne Salient.

Despite the calculations of Hilaire Belloc and others, there does not yet appear to be any sign of serious lack of men in Germany. True, we are told that their trenches are manned by old men and boys, but enemy reports say much the same about the Allied prisoners they capture. The French, they say, are boys of 17 to 19, and the British they class as "for the most part too young." Assuming, though, that the withdrawal was due to the precarious military position of the salient, it is interesting to examine the situation of the other salient experts suggested would have to be abandoned if the Somme offensive were successful. This is a far larger, far more important one, known usually as the Peronne

salient, but better described as the Soissons salient. Part of this is shown on the map, enough to indicate that it is that block of territory apexed at Ribecourt, and based on a line drawn from Peronne to Craonne, some ten miles south-east of Laon. It is obvious at once that to compel the evacuation of this large triangle it will be necessary for Haig to bite much more deeply into enemy territory than he has yet done. He would have to take Peronne and strike towards St. Quentin. At the same time the French would have to drive strongly at some point east of Soissons. Even if the foe were forced to evacuate this salient, such evacuation would not uncover any vital spot. It would but be the first step on the way to the Rhine, more than 160 miles away. Still, it is a necessary step which must be taken before we can hope to achieve anything really important. It would not by any means compel the evacuation of Lille, or of the Briey iron fields, but it would be an important preliminary to any attack which had that object in view.

On This the Issue Depends.

The great advantages that the Allies had in the recent fighting in Picardy were command of the air and ascendancy in artillery. This latter was in large measure due to the former; that is why we now see the enemy making such tremendous efforts to wrest the rulership of the skies from us. If there are enemy eyes aloft, then enemy cannon become much more formidable, and our superiority in guns at once becomes less. As it is certain there will be a terrific battle, or rather series of battles, in the west soon, we may expect furious fighting in the air, so that troop and artillery movements may be discovered and countered. Whilst the Germans may, perhaps, save 50,000, even 100,000, men by the present withdrawal, the Allied front is shortened also, and a like number, or probably more men, would be liberated to reinforce the line elsewhere. We may be quite certain that the enemy have done all that is military possible to make their western front impregnable. It remains to be seen whether the waves of British and French soldiers and the hail of our shells will pulverise the opposing defences or not. On the result of the terrific spring offensive depends the issue of the struggle.

Good News from Mesopotamia.

The appointment of Sir Charles Monro as Commander-in-Chief in India marked

the beginning of a new era in Mesopotamia. Unlike his predecessors, who had been given charge of the campaign on the Tigris, General Monro visited the war theatre himself. He it was who advised and carried out the evacuation of Gallipoli, and apparently he was given *carte blanche* with regard to the Mesopotamian venture. He evidently decided that an advance to Bagdad was feasible, and at once set to work to organise the expedition. He appears to have made a very clean sweep of incompetents, and to have carefully avoided the ghastly bungling which so tragically signalled the carrying out of the first campaign. He remedied the fatal lack of transport, and began the building of light railways instead of relying entirely upon the roads and the river. Proper boats were secured, and the reinforcements needed were demanded and arrived. The result we see to-day. The expedition pushed slowly up to Kut-el-Amara, where it found the Turks strongly entrenched. The force under General Maude was large enough, however, to outflank the enemy position, and the Ottomans fled in confusion. The first accounts claimed the capture of 12,000 prisoners, but this was slowly whittled down to a total of 8000 altogether, including those who were captured during the rapid pursuit which, at the moment of writing, has reached to within twelve miles of Bagdad. Kut, as the crow flies, is distant just over 100 miles from the city of the Caliphs, so it is obvious enough that Maude's cavalry could have encountered little resistance in their advance. Ctesiphon, the holy place where Townshend won a brilliant victory, but was compelled by superior numbers to abandon, has already been passed, and the minarets of Bagdad must be in full view of the British and Indian horsemen, who have been harrying the flying Turks.

Strategy or Collapse?

It is important to know whether in very truth there has been a Turkish debacle or not. We have to remember that Townshend marched swiftly and victorious after fleeing Turks, till he arrived at Ctesiphon, where the enemy in great numbers first halted and then forced him to retire. The German adviser with the Turks urged that the Anglo-Indian force should be allowed to enter Bagdad, for, if Townshend does that, said he, you have him, as he could not possibly defend the city, and you could easily cut his communications. The Turks, however, did not approve of allowing hos-

tile troops to enter Bagdad, even to their own undoing, and fought at Ctesiphon. We may be quite sure that, if Sir Charles Monro has anything to do with it, the danger of communications being cut has been reduced to the minimum. At the same time it is obvious enough that the line from Kut to Bagdad is a peculiarly vulnerable one, as it must have been impossible to clear the Euphrates of the enemy as rapidly as our forces advanced along the Tigris. Whether General Maude takes, and holds, Bagdad depends altogether upon the forces the Turks have immediately available. The missing link in the Bagdad railway has been supplied through the Taurus mountains, but it is doubtful if the gap from Mosul to Ras-el-ain has yet been bridged. We may be sure though that communication between Constantinople and Bagdad is better to-day than it was when reinforcements were rushed to the latter city to meet the Townshend threat; therefore, presumably if the Turks have the men to spare and are desirous of holding Bagdad, the conveyance of ample guns and soldiers would be quite possible. I have read a fantastic suggestion that Turkish troops are to be sent down the Euphrates from Terablis, the ancient capital of the Hittites, where the railway crosses the river, to Feludjah, opposite Bagdad. Unfortunately for the veracity of this yarn, the Euphrates is not navigable beyond Hit, which is some sixty miles above Feludjah!

The Russian Advance.

The retaking of Hamadan in Persia by the Russians shows, first of all, that the Tsar's men are co-operating with the British on the Tigris, and, second, suggests that the Turks are withdrawing their Persian armies for the defence of Bagdad. When Townshend was beleaguered at Kut, the Russians advanced over the ancient caravan road to Kermanshah, and from there to the frontier town of Khanikin, 200 miles west of Hamadan, and 100 miles north-east of Bagdad. At that time sanguine hopes were expressed concerning the junction of the Russian and British armies, but Kut was surrendered, and the Russians retired first to Kermanshah, then to Hamadan, and finally towards Teheran. The Muscovite advance from Armenia towards Mosul was also held up, but apparently Bitlis is still in our Ally's hands. The Russians in the Armenian mountains are only important in so far as they threaten the Turkish lines of communications to Mosul. When the snow-fall in Armenia has been heavy, the floods

round Bagdad and along the Euphrates and Tigris become a serious menace to all communications. These floods usually begin in April and continue to the end of June. It is important, therefore, if Bagdad is the real object of the Mesopotamian expedition, that General Maude should be securely in possession, with his communication lines strongly guarded, within the next two or three weeks. The value to the Allies of Bagdad is moral and political, rather than strategical, although its possession would seriously interfere with Turkish activity in Persia. The fall of the city would, however, have a great effect through the Mohammedan world, and it may be worth taking big risks to make that impression. It goes without saying, of course, that a failure to take—and hold—the place now would make as bad an impression as its capture would good.

The Eastern and Other Fronts.

Little has happened on the Russian and Moravian fronts. The enemy have evidently attained their objective in Roumania and have stopped their advance at the Sereth. Galatz remains unconquered. There are rumours of a great Russian offensive, but as yet no signs of it. It may be that the Tsar's generals will be able to launch a formidable attack against the enemy lines shortly, but their failure to save Roumania looks too much like continued lack of munitions to permit us to build great hopes on a spring offensive in the eastern theatre. The Italians continue to report concerning the massing of enemy forces in the Trentino, but, at present, quiet reigns there. If the enemy do intend to launch an attack towards Venice they would, this time, employ a far more formidable army than that used by the Austrians last year. The Italians have had plenty of warning, and should be able to hold their own. Sarraile continues stationary in northern Greece, although the Grecian army has been removed from his rear and is now south of the Gulf of Corinth. The forces which have been operating on the Sinai Peninsula are reported to have crossed the frontier into Palestine. They are not likely to push very far towards Jerusalem, but their presence on the frontier shows that the peninsula is cleared of the enemy, and that all danger of an attempt against the Canal has passed. As often pointed out before that danger was made real enough to compel the retention of a large force in Egypt, but in view of the

tremendous natural obstacles to be overcome was never much more than a serious threat. In the west the British forces have taken over a further section of the French front, and now hold the line from Ypres to beyond Royes, a distance of about 150 miles by trench, but only 100 as the crow flies. Even now the French hold about four times the front the British do, despite the fact that by this time our army must be larger than theirs. In view of that fact it may be pretty safely assumed that the great offensive against the western front will be made by the British, and would, therefore, be launched somewhere between Royes and Ypres. That the Germans will get in the first blow this year as they did last is to be expected, but we should by now have so tremendous a superiority in men that their drive should not interfere with Allied plans.

America Nearer War.

The United States is undoubtedly nearer war to-day than she was two weeks ago, for Congress has unmistakably indicated that it strongly approves the arming of merchantmen to resist submarine attack. Once an American gunner on an American ship sends a shell through a German submarine, or that submarine, fired on by an American gun, torpedoes the vessel carrying it, it is difficult to see how war could longer be avoided. The President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and the Navy, probably has the power to arm merchant ships if he thinks it advisable without the permission of Congress, but he must have the consent of both Houses of Parliament before he can declare war. As, however, the arming of merchantmen would seem to make war inevitable, a case has obviously arisen where the President could bring his country into a state of war without the consent of Congress. No doubt, because he realised this, Dr. Wilson asked for authority to put guns on merchant ships. This the House of Representatives gave with a great majority, but, although only eleven Senators were opposed to granting permission, they were able by taking advantage of the fact that there is no limitation of the length of debate in the Senate to prevent that body authorising the President to arm ships, despite the fact that the remaining 81 Senators were desperately anxious to give him the authority. Dr. Wilson announced, in his inaugural address, that he had found that certain old statutes prevented him from acting without the consent of the Senate, but his legal advisers have now informed him that these do not stand in the way of

his arming ships without referring the matter to Congress. It is unlikely, however, that the President will give instructions for guns to be mounted aboard until the Senate formally gives its authority, because the Senate has now revised the rules which govern it, and has adopted a closure amendment for the limitation of debate. Apparently the closure can in future be applied if two-thirds of the Senators approve. That being so it is certain that, if reintroduced, the "Armed Neutrality Bill" would pass the Upper as well as the Lower House, and official approval of arming would be given. If, however, the Senate cannot at once be called together, the President will probably give instructions to arm ships without waiting official sanction.

Will It Advantage Us?

Now that war between the United States and Germany seems certain, many people are wondering whether, after all, the incoming of America is going to be of very much assistance to the Allies. I have consistently pointed out ever since the struggle began that instead of abusing President Wilson, as has been our constant custom, we should be properly thankful for a neutral America, from which we have steadily drawn the most vital supplies of munitions and foodstuffs. The question now before us is whether America belligerent will be able to continue feeding us with raw material, wheat, meat and munitions to the same extent as America neutral. That depends almost entirely upon the vigour with which the United States Government embarks into the maelstrom of war. I have been rather surprised—although that faculty has almost disappeared recently—to find people talking glibly about the advantage the entrance of America into the struggle is going to be to the Allies. When asked to particularise they point to the 100,000,000 inhabitants of the United States and assert that there is an immense reservoir of men who will so hugely reinforce our armies in the west as to make final victory absolutely certain. Yet even these folks admit that it must be at least a year before a great American army can be expected in France. If we fail to get through this year, they say hopefully, American help is going to make it quite certain that we do in 1918. Why, one wonders, should any thinking person assume that the United States will send a mighty army to Europe to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for the Allies? Why should we count upon American soldiers helping us win the war any more than upon Japanese? I am convinced that America will take no

greater share in the struggle than has Japan —will not even go as far as has the Mikado's Empire.

America Not One of the Allies.

Japan is one of the Allies, bound like the other parties of the *Entente* Alliance, not to make a separate peace with Germany. The United States will not become one of the Allies, that seems certain. It is perhaps a paradoxical situation, but an entirely understandable one. Even in war the Americans will seek to avoid those entangling alliances against which George Washington warned them. America will be at war with Germany, possibly with Austria, but not with Bulgaria or Turkey. She will certainly not bind herself to the *Entente* Powers, as they themselves are now bound together. There is now a financial, naval and military union amongst the enemies of the Teutonic Powers to which the United States would never become a party. Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy are admittedly fighting to crush Germany, for their aim is to finally remove the Teutonic menace from Europe, and only by utterly defeating the enemy can that result be achieved. America, however, is only concerned to protect her sailors in the carrying on of their legitimate business, and such protection can be given by arming her merchant ships and convoying them across the Atlantic. That the Americans will set out to try and utterly crush Germany is entirely improbable; that is not the object which is likely to bring about the final break with the Kaiser's Government. We need not anticipate that America will take any active part in land fighting in Europe. It is true that were she at war British armies could look for reinforcements across the Atlantic, but these would come in the shape of individual volunteers, possibly in the form of companies raised in America which would be attached to Allied regiments. There are plenty of young men in the United States itching for a fight, who would seize the opportunity of mixing in, but it would be immensely surprising if the Government undertook to send even an expeditionary force, let alone a huge army, to Europe. At the same time the declaration of war would be made the occasion for the creation of a large army within the United States, and for the hasty pushing forward of fleet construction.

How the Americans Could Help.

If we rule out the possibility of America sending large forces to France, in what

way would her incoming help us? That it might to some extent hamper the Allies is clear. If naval construction is to be accelerated, and a large army is to be created, it is only too probable that the products of American factories would be diverted for home use, and would no longer be available for the Allies. Such diversion would be a serious blow to Russia, although presumably by now neither England, France nor Italy rely greatly on American guns, rifles and shells. But every member of the *Entente* Alliance depends upon the United States for copper and iron, for meat and corn, for horses and mules, for cotton and sugar. Anything which disturbed the regular export of these things would gravely damage the Allied cause. Whilst it is likely that the demand for copper and iron would be greater in America as a result of war, there would hardly be any difficulty in getting all the supplies the Allies required. So far as foodstuffs are concerned, as long as the Government at Washington does not fix prices which would involve a prohibition on exports, the high prices offering in Europe would continue to drain the country of all the grain and meat that could possibly be spared. The greatest help a belligerent America could be would be to act as banker for the Allies. Give them goods on credit, lend them money at low interest, and without demanding tremendous security, as she now does. If, in addition, she commandeered all the German ships in her ports, repaired them, and handed them over to the Allies, considerable benefit could be obtained from her participation in the world struggle. It is by no means sure, however, that the American Government would take over the German ships, or that American banks would be willing to give credit without heavy security.

The Last American Loan.

In this connection it is interesting to survey the present financial position between America and the Allies. In previous issues particulars have been given of the loans raised in the American market, and of the securities demanded. Cables seemed to indicate that the American banks had come to the decision to lend money in future without any other security than that of the promise of the British Government. Particulars of the latest loan, however, dispel that happy illusion. This was subscribed during the last days of January, and was for 250,000,000 dollars. Although described as a loan, it was hardly more than

an accommodation, for it was issued in the form of one year and two year $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. notes. The original idea, it will be remembered, was to put British Treasury Bills on the American market, but the Federal banks did not approve the scheme, and it had to be dropped. There are some features about this loan which are worth examining. First of all, it is issued at the present rate of exchange, viz., 4.76 dols., but is redeemable one or two years hence in gold at the fixed rate of 4.86 dollars to the pound. Further, although issued by the banks at 99.07, it has to be redeemed at 101 on the date of expiry, or at 102 if before that date. The banks, naturally, as they issue at 99.07, would be getting the notes for considerably less — 98 or 97 perhaps. Taking the higher figure we get the following interesting calculation.

£51,000,000 Loan Will Cost £8,400,000!

Although the loan is nominally for 250,000,000 dols., only 245,000,000 dols. would be realised. Two years hence, however, 252,500,000 dols. would have to be paid to redeem the loan, and, during the interval, interest at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would be paid, viz., 27,500,000 dols. Thus, for this accommodation, the British Government would have to pay no less than 35,000,000 dols. To that must be added the difference between the issue, rate of exchange, 4.76 dols., and the redemption rate, 4.86 dols., viz., 5,250,000 dols. In other words, in order to get 245,000,000 dols. now, Great Britain has to pay, before February 1st, 1919, no less than 284,750,000 dols. The transaction costs, that is to say, just about 40,000,000 dols., which, at present rate of exchange, means £8,400,000! This for a two-year loan of £51,470,000 is pretty stiff! But the American banks have required for this loan, as for all those but one which have gone before, most ample security. The loan is for 250,000,000 dols., but securities worth 300,000,000 dols. had to be deposited. It is further provided that, if the pledged securities depreciate in value, the British Government is to deposit additional securities to maintain the 20 per cent. margin. The Home Government reserves the right to sell for cash any of the pledged securities, the proceeds of the sale to be applied to the retirement of notes by purchase or by redemption by lot. It may also substitute other securities, but subject to the approval of J. P. Morgan and Co.

The Securities Demanded.

The securities agreed upon are divided into two groups, and when any reduction of the outstanding notes is effected collateral may be withdrawn, but approximately ratably from each group. The groups are as follow:—

Group 1.—Stocks, bonds, and/or other securities of American municipalities and corporations and of the Canadian-Pacific Railway Company, and bonds and/or other obligations (either as maker or guarantor) of the Government of the Dominion of Canada, the Colony of Newfoundland, and/or provinces of the Dominion of Canada, and/or approved Canadian municipalities. Aggregate value not less than 150,000,000 dollars.

Group 2.—Bonds and/or other obligations (either as maker or guarantor) or any or all of the several following Governments, to wit, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Commonwealth of Australia, Egypt, Japan, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and/or bonds and/or other obligations of approved railways in Argentina and/or of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, and/or approximately 25,000,000 dollars value in bonds and/or other obligations of dividend-paying British railway companies. Aggregate value not less than 150,000,000 dollars.

As there appears to have been delay in the arrival of all the definitive securities set forth above, the British Government was required to deposit temporarily with the Trust Company either approved New York Stock Exchange collateral or cash. If the incoming of America makes the obtaining of money more easy, it will obviously greatly benefit the Allies. If, however, there is still a demand for heavy security by the Americans, this incoming, at first at any rate, would be more harmful than beneficial to us.

Physician, Heal Thyself!

Great Britain is in this war, so our leaders have again and again asserted, in order to uphold the rights of the small nations. We are fighting to restore Belgium, to free the Armenians, the Poles, the Bohemians, the Transylvanian Roumanians, the Serbs of Bosnia, the Albanians, the Italians from a yoke they do not desire. But whilst, by force, we hope to compel Austria and Germany to grant autonomy to these peoples, we ourselves find it impossible to give Ireland that Home Rule the great majority of her people demand. The British Parliament has agreed to Home Rule. Most people in England and Scotland consider that Ireland should be allowed to govern herself, yet though the will seems to be present, the task appears

to be proving hopeless. Yet Ireland compared to Bohemia, Macedonia and Poland presents hardly any obstacles to a peaceful arrangement. The Irish question is a straight issue complicated by few of the problems which confront a settlement of the Czech, Polish or Macedonian questions. But we hope to bring about by force of arms a settlement in European countries which we find it quite impossible to bring about in our own house. The Irish, save in a few border counties, are unmixed with the Ulsterman. The two sections live apart in distinct provinces, counties and villages. They speak the same language, are of similar race. To settle difference between them is mere child's play compared to the settling of Bohemia or Poland.

Ireland—Easy in Comparison.

In Bohemia there dwell some 6,500,000 people, of whom 2,500,000 are Teutons, and speak German, and 4,000,000 are Bohemians, and speak Czech. But the Germans do not live, like the Ulstermen, in one well-defined area, nor are the Czechs confined to certain provinces. Broadly speaking, the Germans are in the hills and the Bohemians on the plains, but great numbers of Germans are to be found in all the large towns and villages, whilst the mining and manufacturing districts, developed by Teutonic enterprise, have been invaded by Czechs, who now live side by side with the Germans. Even in the purely Czech districts, there are numerous German-speaking enclaves. There is not, it is true, the religious difficulty in Bohemia, where almost all are Roman Catholics, but the language difficulty is an even greater obstacle to settlement than is the sectarian trouble in Ireland. The Austrians have made constant efforts to arrange the Bohemian trouble, their methods, like ours in Ireland, ranging from coercion to the promise of autonomy. Their efforts, however, have been crowned with no better success than have those of Britain in Ireland. The latest attempt is described as a Germanising of Bohemia. Whether it is really so or not cannot be judged until full particulars are available. It is said that German is to be the official language, and if that be so there is about as much chance of a peaceful settlement as there would be in Ireland if it were suggested that the Presbyterian or Anglican Church should be the State Church in that distracted land!

Will Force Ever Succeed?

If we turn from Bohemia to Transylvania we find the same state of affairs, only here the Roumanians are actually little more than half the population, and they are distributed widely throughout the country, having as neighbours Hungarians, Saxons and gipsies. In Poland, too, the language question, the religious question, and the Jewish question all play large parts. Here also the population is by no means all Polish. In Posen, for instance, there are over a million Poles, who belong to the Roman Catholic faith, and some 900,000 Germans who are Protestants. The 30,000 Jews, though by comparison few, offer a grave problem for solution. Germans and Poles lived mixed together, not in separate areas. In Galicia, the Poles predominate only in the northern portion. In the whole province there are an almost equal number of Poles and Ruthenians who are Greek Catholics. For many years the Poles have enjoyed a great measure of freedom which they appear to have denied the Ruthenians. In this particular case, indeed, the latter may be regarded as a small nationality struggling for freedom from Polish domination! In Macedonia the races are so mixed that there is a good deal of truth in the saying of a leading European statesman, now dead, that the question would never be settled until all the Macedonians were killed out, save those of one or other of the races now dwelling there, who could then possess the land in peace. If accounts concerning the horrors of the Balkan wars and of this present Balkan struggle be correct, it would seem that the Macedonian question at any rate is in a fair way to be settled on these lines. The present reappearance of the Irish trouble in urgent form serves to emphasise for us the immense difficulty ahead when by *force majeure* we confidently look to settle the questions of the little nations.

Will the Government Give Home Rule?

The sudden reappearance of the Irish question at a moment like this makes its settlement imperative. If Lloyd George and the War Cabinet fail to successfully grapple with it the situation will be gravely serious. So long as success attends their efforts in the war the fact that the Irishmen are in active opposition will not jeopardise the new Government. But directly this Government begin to become unpopular either because of reverses in the field or because of dissatisfaction over the methods

adopted to regiment the nation to meet war conditions—and this means, of course, the active hostility of certain powerful newspapers—it will certainly fall. Lloyd George has been put into office to win the war. If it does not look as if he were winning it the factions who do not approve of his Government, united with the Irish, might easily prove strong enough to upset him. That, however, is looking some distance ahead. The immediate question is what he proposes to do to meet the Irish demand for Home Rule. The question was brought up with dramatic suddenness by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who submitted the following motion in the House of Commons on March 7th:—

That, for the purpose of strengthening the hands of the Allies, in achieving recognition of the equal rights of small nations against the German principle of military domination and of Government without the consent of the governed, it is essential to confer Home Rule to Ireland without delay.

The Nationalists considered that this was an invitation to the House of Commons to join in a united and genuine effort to settle the Irish question. In the debate which followed, Mr. Lloyd George said that the Government "were prepared to give the Nationalists self-government if they wanted it, but would not put under their heels people who do not want it." Mr. Redmond demanded that the Home Rule Act should be put into operation at once, "with such additions and amendments as the time and altered circumstances render necessary." Finally, he asked his colleagues not to continue the futile and humiliating debate, but to withdraw. This they did amid a scene of the wildest excitement.

The Irish Manifesto.

Having left the House they drew up a manifesto which they sent to the President of the United States, the Prime Ministers of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and to the Premiers of the six Australian States. In it they declared that "Mr. Lloyd George in his speech took up a position which involved the denial of self-government to Ireland for ever. He laid down the principle that a small minority in Ulster should put a veto on self-government for a united Ireland. That is a position to which the representatives of Ireland can never agree." After appealing to the millions of the Irish race in the Dominions and in the United States the manifesto goes on, "We are now struggling

against terrible odds to keep an open road to Irish liberty through peaceful and constitutional means. In the struggle we are hampered by the British Government, which plays into the hands of the Irish pro-German revolutionaries with a stupid perversity worthy of the worst reactionaries of Petrograd." It ends with a statement to the effect that although the Nationalists are resolved to do all in their power to aid in ending the war, they feel bound to oppose the Government by every means. That is the present position, and that it is a serious one no one can deny. If the Government does not make a supreme effort to give Ireland Home Rule—with such additions and amendments as the time and altered circumstances render necessary—how gravely will the hands of the Allies be weakened in achieving recognition of the equal rights of the small nations. Not only will the enemy use such a failure to the utmost, but the present alarming discontent in Ireland will increase, and, as the manifesto truly says, the Government will play straight into the hands of the revolutionaries there.

A Hope Not Realised.

It is, of course, easy to say that the Home Rule question should not have been raised whilst the war is on, but those who say it do not take into account the circumstances in which the Suspensory Bill was passed in September, 1914, and fail to realise the present position in Ireland. When the Home Rule Bill automatically became law in September, 1914, it was decided that its operation should be suspended for a year, or, if the war were still raging twelve months later, until a date to be fixed by order in Council not later than the duration of the war. To the suggestion of Lord Lansdowne that the Bill should be hung up in the stage it had reached when war broke out, Mr. Asquith said:—

Looking at the matter I can honestly say, for the moment at any rate, not as a partisan, but in the interests of the Empire—what would have been, and what must be the effect of such an indefinite postponement not only upon the people of Ireland in Ireland itself, but upon the Irish race in our Dominions, and in the great kindred country of the United States? They would have been told that they must exchange for that which is certain and assured, all the anxieties of an indefinite prolongation of the time of doubt, suspicion, and of, indeed, unendurable suspense . . . that would be in itself, to my mind, an unspeakable calamity.

Many Irishmen, at the time, strongly attacked Mr. Redmond for agreeing to this



ON THE ROAD TO BAGDAD.

1. The turgid Tigris. Arabs selling fish to troops ascending the river.
2. The site of the Garden of Eden. Kurna, where the Euphrates and Tigris join.
3. Turkish prisoners blindfolded before they are taken through the British lines.

postponement, asserting that, in the long run, it would mean that Ireland would lose all she had striven for for so many generations, would mean the permanent shelving of Home Rule. To this Mr. Redmond replied in many brilliant speeches, all breathing the hope and even certainty that "when the war is over the common dangers which all Irishmen of all creeds and of all parties have faced together, the commingling of their blood upon the battlefield, and their death side by side like brothers in a foreign land, may have the effect of utterly and completely and for ever obliterating the bitterness and the divisions and hatreds of the past, so that the new constitution we have won may be inaugurated in a country pacified by sacrifices and amongst a people united by the memory of a common suffering." The failure of the negotiations to bring about a settlement a few months ago evidently convinced Mr. Redmond and his followers that there was no hope of this common suffering influencing the men of Ulster deeply enough to induce them to agree to Home Rule. They are, therefore, taking other steps to secure the putting into operation of a measure already on the statute book, which, before the war, had secured the approval of a majority of the members of Parliament who had behind them a majority of the electors of the United Kingdom. If Lloyd George fails to solve the question we must look for disastrous consequences, for the position of the Government will be seriously threatened and the united front the Empire has presented to the enemy will show a rift which may develop into a gravely dangerous gap. Ulstermen have shed their blood for the Empire, but so have Irishmen. To refuse Home Rule because of the loyalty of Ulstermen, whilst ignoring the loyalty of the Nationalists, is absurd. We are fighting to free the small nations; let us then begin the work at home.

The British Man-Power Problem.

The cables which have been received here during the last few weeks indicate that there is evidently considerable rivalry between the army, industry and agriculture concerning the obtaining of men. Lord Derby insists that he must have more soldiers. Mr. Prothero points out that it is all very well to call on farmers to produce more crops, but that there is already a serious shortage of labour, and no more men ought to be withdrawn from the fields of England. Sir Joseph Maclay, who con-

trols shipping, and has organised the ship yards of Great Britain, points out that it is absolutely necessary that ships shall be built rapidly and in great numbers. That means more, not fewer, men in the shipyards. The shortage of coal is due, in large measure, to the shortage of miners; the difficulty of getting iron ore from abroad makes necessary the mining of low-grade ore in Britain, to do which more men are needed. Mr. Neville Chamberlain, the Director of National Services, has refused to allow men of military age to engage in certain professions and trades, but has had to publish a list of trades to work in which is a national service. There is a general demand that the man-power problem should be more effectively handled.

Unfortunate Rivalry.

The British as a nation are resentful of official interference, and it is not at all surprising that the national mobilisation should at first be much less effective than that of Germany, where discipline is part of the national life. The difficulties are obvious enough, and it is to be hoped that the demands of the military will not override those of the agriculturists, mine-owners, and shipbuilders. The coal shortage must have greatly hampered the Allies, and it is no exaggeration to say that the miner is just as truly fighting for the Empire when, pick in hand, he labours in the bowels of the earth, as is the soldier in the trench, or that the farm hand who turns up the sod and reaps the grain is just as patriotic a person as the airman who daily risks his life over the enemy lines. That there must be serious interruption in the arrival of necessities in Great Britain is certain, and it is highly important that national organisation should be carried out as efficiently as possible. If it is not, the outlook is bad indeed.

The Dardanelles Commission.

It is exceedingly regrettable that the result of the enquiry into the Dardanelles campaign should have been made public at the present stage of the war. It discloses, to the view of friend and foe alike, the gravest defect which has all along marred Allied strategy, nullified Allied effort—namely, lack of co-operation. It is certain that those who so strongly opposed Mr. Asquith and finally brought about his downfall, will seize upon this report to prove that he was largely responsible for the failures which dogged our steps during

1915 and 1916. Actually, however, all the report proves is that there was the same lack of union between the different members of the British administration as there was between the different Allied Governments. Mr. Asquith was, one would imagine, entirely justified in assuming that the experts who attended the conferences agreed with what their Ministerial chief said. If Lord Fisher and Admiral Wilson did not approve of Mr. Churchill's scheme it was certainly their duty to say so. Whether a permanent head of a department ought to differ from his chief's decisions or not, is quite beside the mark. Lord Fisher was not merely a permanent head of a department. He was a man specially called in to advise the country in time of dire stress. Having been put there to express opinions and advise he should have voiced his objections to the Dardanelles' venture, have resigned if necessary to enforce his views. It is amazing that a man of Lord Fisher's stamp should have kept quiet. Mr. Asquith knew Fisher well, and would certainly think if he said nothing he agreed with Mr. Churchill. To accuse the late Prime Minister of lack of statesmanship because Lord Fisher did not do his obvious duty, is ridiculous. The report shows that not only were the British leaders entirely ignorant of the strength of the Turks in men, guns and positions, but knew also very little about their own resources. Naturally, everyone will now have an uneasy feeling at the back of their minds that things may not, even yet, be as they should be. If it were possible to muddle so hopelessly over Gallipoli, and have no whisper of that muddle get out, it is conceivable that we are muddling still! That feeling may be altogether unjustified—probably it is—but a perusal of the cabled summary of the report inevitably creates it.

Germany, Mexico and Peru.

The disclosure of a sensational plot to induce Mexico and Japan to join Germany was made in America. How the Americans were able to get hold of the cipher documents containing the instructions of the German Government to Count von Bernstorff has not been disclosed. The whole plot is a clumsy business, and had its authorship not been admitted by Herr Zimmerman, it would probably have been written down as a silly forgery. To imagine that Japan, which is doing so very well, indeed out of the alliance with the *Entente* Powers, would break away from them

shows a hopeless failure to grasp the true situation. Overtures have been made, it would seem, to both Carranza and Villa, who are engaged in fighting each other! Rumour has it now that the Germans have established a wireless station in Mexico which enables them to communicate once more with the outside world. The erection of a wireless plant in a neutral country is not a violation of neutrality. It would, of course, not be a German, but a Mexican affair. Whether such an installation would be barred by international law if it were used to convey directions to roaming raiders and submarines is another matter. A plot has been unearthed in which a small group of Indians in the United States are said to have taken German money with the object of starting a great revolutionary movement in India. Yet another conspiracy was discovered, the aim of which was to turn Peruvian warships into a piratical fleet which was to prey on Allied commerce! There can be no doubt at all that the Germans have endeavoured to secure bases where their raiders and submarines could shelter and get supplies, but it is certainly doubtful if they really tried to start a revolution in India, from the United States, or attempted the wholesale bribery of a neutral navy.

The Submarine Blockade.

The toll of the submarines has apparently not been so heavy during the last two weeks. Detailed announcement of the losses from this cause are not now given every day, but we have the word of the First Lord of the Admiralty for it that 500,000 tons of shipping were sunk during February. Had he not made this announcement it would have been generally assumed that the loss had only reached 340,000 tons, a total arrived at by adding together all the ships whose sinking had been chronicled during February. Sir Edward Carson frankly confessed that we had not yet solved the submarine problem. "Nothing," he said, "was gained by exaggerating or minimising the anxieties we felt as to the grave position in which the nation was to-day." Despite the submarines it is reported that the imports of dairy produce and meat during last week were twice as great as during the corresponding week last year. That, however, means little beyond affording us the satisfaction of knowing that, during the last seven days, many ships have been arriving safely in British ports. The bare fact remains that, despite their

having been no decreases—save in tomatoes and oranges—there is a shortage of potatoes in England, and that the price of food has gone up steadily during the last few weeks. To counteract this the prices of certain foods are to be fixed. Apparently, though, this did not prevent far higher prices being obtained for certain commodities than was allowed by the regulations. In Austria it is said that despite the shortage money can buy anything—fixed in price, restricted in sale, or not. In Germany it cannot. Let us hope that it can never be said of Britain that, when the people were on rations, the poor went short and the rich had plenty.

The Raider in the Indian Ocean.

The dramatic announcement that there was a raider about in the Indian Ocean gave rise to an extraordinary crop of rumours. The Minister for the Navy stated that she was a cargo steamer of about 4000 tons, carrying guns and torpedo tubes, and having a seaplane on board. Although there is no cause for alarm the Admiralty consider "that both shipowners and cargo owners should act with prudence in the matter of insurance." This particular raider should be quickly hunted down, for the only possible base she can have is the small coastal patch of German East Africa not yet in the hands of the South Africa forces. She will, like the *Emden*, have to rely upon what she can get from her victims. The ocean is, of course, huge, but ships keep to a pretty beaten track, and if the enemy raider tries to find her prey in the usual trade routes she is certain to fall victim to one or other of the ships which must be hunting her.

THE COMMONWEALTH.

Senator Ready Resigns.

The first proposal of the newly formed Coalition Government was that the life of both Houses of Parliament should be prolonged until six months after the end of the war. This was strongly opposed in the Senate, where the Official Labour Party, the Opposition, had a majority of two. At first the Government made it evident that they intended to push the matter strongly in the Upper House, but suddenly they abandoned this course, and, to the general astonishment, permitted time to be wasted on general discussion. During this lull,

however, sensational things occurred. It was obvious of course that if two Labour Senators could be induced to abstain from voting, or one happened to resign, and could be replaced by a supporter of the Hughes-Cook combination, the Government could control the Senate long enough to get its approval to have the life of Parliament extended. In the event of a resignation, indeed, that control might be permanent. Under these circumstances, the excitement may be imagined when the President of the Senate, Hon. Thomas Givens, announced, during the evening of March 1st, that he had received the resignation of Senator Ready, one of Tasmania's representatives, and a supporter of the Official Labour Party.

A Combination of Happy Circumstances.

The Constitution provides that a vacancy in the Senate must be filled by a new representative selected by a joint vote of both Houses of Parliament of that State to which the retiring Senator belonged. If these Houses happen to be in recess, the selection is made by the Executive Council presided over by the Governor, and this selection must come up for confirmation when the State Parliament meets. As both Houses in Tasmania have a majority of Liberals, it was certain that a supporter of the Government would be chosen to replace Mr. Ready. It happened, however, that Parliament was not sitting, consequently the Executive Council made the selection. The astonishing celerity with which it performed its task served to fortify the Labour Senators and Members of Parliament in their accusations of corruption against Mr. Hughes—accusations which he most strongly and emphatically denies. Be that as it may, Senator Ready handed in his resignation at one minute past six on Thursday evening, and, next morning, Mr. John Earle, former Premier of Tasmania, took his seat in the Senate as representative for Tasmania. The Labour members pointed out that there was here a most suspicious combination of happy circumstances playing into the hands of the Government. Senator Ready suddenly becomes so unwell that he feels he must resign. He does so on Thursday evening. A telegram is at once sent to Hobart, and, despite the late hour, it proves possible for the Governor of the State and Ministers to meet and select a new Senator, who, by an extraordinary coincidence, happens to be handy waiting in Melbourne—whither he has come on other business! As a member of a

State Parliament may not sit in the Federal House, the new Senator resigns his Tasmanian seat, this resignation is accepted, and he is able to take his place in the Senate on Friday morning, when the Government immediately brings forward its proposal for the extension of the life of Parliament.

Charges of Corruption.

This concatenation of circumstances, coming on top of Mr. Ready's resignation, caused a wild howl of rage to go up from the Opposition Senators, who had no hesitation whatever in accusing the Government, and particularly Mr. Hughes, of sharp practice, even going so far as to suggest that the sudden summoning of Mr. Lee, Premier of Tasmania, to Sydney to meet the Prime Minister had some sinister connection with the whole business. It is certainly remarkable that Mr. Lee, who was at the time on a trip up the coast of Tasmania, should have been hastily called to go to Sydney, ostensibly over a little matter of wheat freights, which would hardly have been in any way aggravated by a few days' delay, might even have been settled by letter or wire. But an even greater sensation was in store for the country. When the Senate met on Friday morning Senator Watson, one of the Official Labour Senators for New South Wales, made a long statement in which he told of talks with Senator Givens, Senator Pearce and finally with Mr. Hughes, and asserted that the Prime Minister had suggested to him that he should resign his seat and allow the vacancy to be filled, promising that a position would be found for him, and that as far as money was concerned, he would lose nothing by coming over to the Hughes' Party. The statement was circumstantial, and the Opposition at once demanded the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the charges.

"Is That a Crime?"

Senators Givens and Pearce emphatically denied that they had made the slightest suggestion of bribery, although they admitted having conversations with Senator Watson, the object of which was to induce him to desert the Official Labour Party and join them. Mr. Hughes, as was to be expected, made an exceedingly impassioned speech on the subject in the House of Representatives, and furiously denied that there had been any attempt made to bribe

Senator Watson. Efforts had been made, however, "to persuade Senator Watson to vote in the way in which his conscience and his convictions led." "Is that a crime?" said Mr. Hughes dramatically. "to ask a man to follow the dictates of his conscience and convictions?" He also dealt with the resignation of Senator Ready, and denied absolutely all knowledge, "good, bad or indifferent," of the circumstances which led up to that resignation. With regard to the arrangements made for replacing him so rapidly, the Prime Minister said: "I am perfectly justified in taking every opportunity when a resignation occurs, or is rumoured to be about to occur, to make all arrangements so that, as far as is possible, the majority of the Government may be secured. I absolutely deny anything else than that."

Royal Commission Denied.

Although, in the course of his harangue, Mr. Hughes said, "If honourable members require a Royal Commission or any other kind of Commission, in God's name let them have it!" the Government absolutely refused to appoint one, and announced its determination to demand the extension of the life of Parliament. That was the situation on Friday and Saturday, and, in view of the fact that, including Mr. Earle, the Government had 18 supporters in the Senate, and the Opposition an equal number, it was certain that the proposal would be agreed to, because two of the Labour Senators were absent, and the Government refused to grant pairs. It is curious that the two missing men were also Tasmanians. Senator Guy was lying seriously ill in a private hospital, and Senator Long was on sick leave, recuperating on Thursday Island, of all places in the world. But, on Monday morning, when the Senate met to discuss the Government's motion for the extension of Parliament, Senator Millen made a startling announcement to the effect that the Government had decided to have a double election within two months. It had come to this decision, said Senator Millen, because it was evidently idle to look for any co-operation from the Labour Party, which co-operation was needed if the Government were to shoulder the responsibilities arising from the war and the Imperial Conference. The early general election made it impossible for the appointed Delegates—Mr. Hughes, Sir William Irvine, and Sir John Forrest—to leave Australia. It was later stated that

they had intended taking their departure on March 7th.

Senators Keating and Bakhap Force Election.

Now, whilst lack of co-operation was given as the reason for holding the election at once, a more likely cause can be found in the fact that two of the Government's supporters in the Senate had decided, after the Ready episode and the Watson charges, to vote against the prolongation of the life of Parliament. Consequently the majority obtained by the Government in the Senate by the appointment of Senator Earle had entirely vanished since Friday, owing to the decision of Senators Bakhap and Keating, both Tasmanians, not to support the Ministry in this particular matter. Mr. Hughes and his colleagues, who, on Friday, after the accusations, showed themselves determined to force through their proposal for the prolongation of Parliament, on Monday, knowing this proposal would be defeated in the Senate, announced that they would go to the country, because they could not secure the co-operation of the Labour Party!

Who Will Win?

The only question now is who will win? Both sides are confident. The Hughesites and Liberals referred to generally as the Fusion, but calling themselves the National Party, state that the election will be fought on the "Win-the-War" issue, and also on who is to go to the Imperial Conference to represent Australia. The Official Labour Party obviously intends to make the issue Conscription. That the Liberals do not want, but, in view of their utterances during the Referendum campaign, the Labourites will have no difficulty whatever in saddling them with this issue. The voting, therefore, may be expected to follow, in the main, that of the Referendum of last October. Half the Senators retire, and all the Representatives. It is probable that Fusion will come back to the Lower House with a decreased majority, but not many of Mr. Hughes' immediate following will be returned unless the Liberals find seats for them. He himself has to find a seat somewhere, as he has not the faintest chance of carrying West Sydney. The real crux of the position will be the Senate. Four Liberal Senators, seven

Hughesites, and seven Labourites retire. Two of the Liberals represent New South Wales, and, in view of the tremendous majority against Conscription polled in that State, it is fairly safe to assume that their places will be taken by Official Labour men. The retiring Senators in Queensland are all Official Labour, and will no doubt secure re-election. The three in Western Australia are all followers of Mr. Hughes, and, in view of the big "Yes" majority last October, should certainly be re-elected. In South Australia there was a large majority against Conscription, but the three Senators belong to the Fusion Party—all Hughesites. If voting follows the Referendum they will certainly be replaced by Labourites. In Tasmania the three retiring Senators are all Fusionists—two Liberals and one, Mr. Earle, a Hughesite. The voting was close in Tasmania last October. At the last Senate election, when all the Senators went to the country, three Labourites headed the poll, and it is certainly probable that two, or at least one, of the new men to be elected in May will belong to the Official Labour Party. The retiring men in Victoria are Official Labourites. At the last election Labour swept the State, winning all six seats. Victoria, however, gave a strong vote for Conscription, and should therefore elect Fusionists in place of the three now retiring.

Deadlock Again Probable.

In order to secure a majority the Fusion Party will not only have to carry all the seats in both Victoria and Tasmania, but would have to hold the two seats they now have in New South Wales, and at least one in South Australia. Their chances of so doing do not look at all rosy. Their best hope is to hold the three seats in South Australia, for in New South Wales the feeling against Mr. Hughes is so bitter that the Liberals will certainly suffer for their alliance with him. To prophesy politically in Australia is a reckless performance, but it would not be surprising to find, after the election, a Liberal Government in office, with Mr. Cook as Prime Minister, with a small but useful majority in the House of Representatives. In the Senate, however, the Official Labour Party would, in all probability, be supreme with a majority which would not be at all jeopardised by the sudden resignation of some ill Senator.



HISTORY IN CARICATURE.

Oh, wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us.—Burns.



John Bull.] [London.
HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Allied cartoonists are still busy with the German peace proposals. All of them suggest that these were not genuine, and all are united in their portrayal of emphatic refusal by the Allies.

Frank Holland, in *John Bull*, cleverly paraphrases a certain well-known advertisement. The Italian *Numero* shows the enemy Powers surrendering, whilst all the

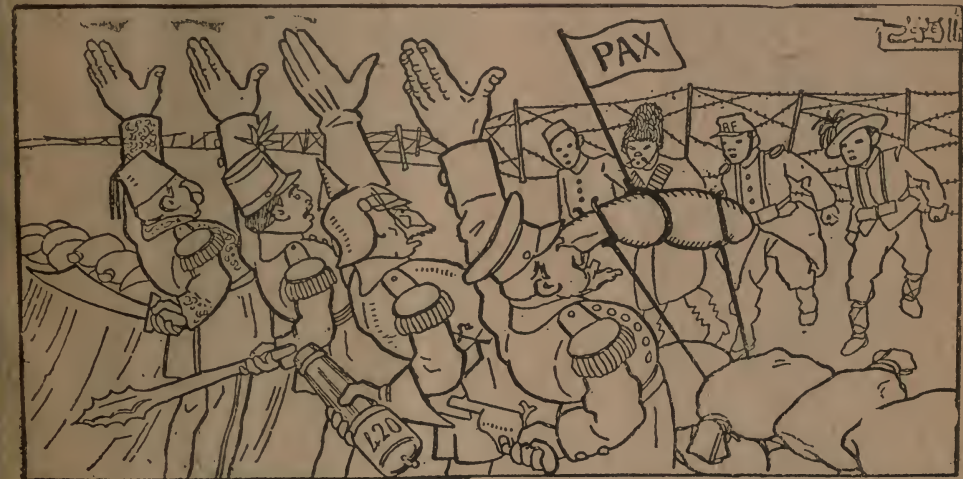
while hiding fearsome weapons behind their backs. As usual, the prominent nose of Tsar Ferdinand figures largely.

The neutral *Nebelspalter* suggests that Great Britain is the prime cause of the prompt refusal of the German suggestions.



Nebelspalter.] [Zurich.
PEACE PROPOSALS.

"As often as peace is mentioned, the English war spirit breaks through it."



Numero.] [Turin.
THE GERMAN OFFER.
"Kamerad! Kamerad!"



[Cleveland Plain Dealer.]

"V.O.T'S IN 'THE BLOOMIN' THING?"



[St. Louis Post-Dispatch.]

STRAFED.

Some of the American cartoons on the subject are very clever, and even amusing.

Many of the artists in the United States have dealt very caustically with the speculators of Wall Street, who would be ruined if peace came.



[Brooklyn Eagle.]

WIGWAGGING.



[St. Louis Republic.]

THE ICY MITT.



De Telegraaf.] [Amsterdam.
POLAND: THE BUFFER KING.

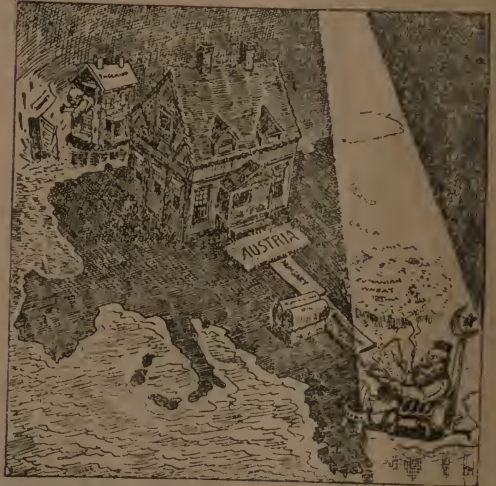
Germany that they have to be retrieved by the artillery-men after they have been fired!

It would be interesting to know what has really been the result of the Austro-German declaration concerning a Polish kingdom. According to neutral papers, as well as those of the *Entente*, the whole thing is nothing more than a pretence, the object of which is to obtain Polish support. *Kladderadatsch* naturally takes a very different view, and shows the German eagle bringing the much-damaged bear a little present in the shape of a free Poland.

Ireland, in *The Columbus Dispatch*, cleverly indicates the true aspirations of the Germans with regard to Asia Minor.



España.] [Madrid
THE NEW POLISH SOLDIER EXPERIENCING
A TASTE OF GERMAN KULTUR.



Columbus Dispatch.]
HIS PLACE IN THE SUN.



News.] [Dallas, U.S.A.
THE GREAT ADVANCE.



Cleveland Plain Dealer.]
GETTING HIS DANDER UP.



Columbus Dispatch.]
RESCUING ROUMANIA.



Brooklyn Eagle.] TOO LATE.

American cartoonists have been devoting a good deal of attention to the situation in Greece, and also the failure of the Allies to rescue Roumania.

A Russian paper, *The Novi Satirikon*, shows the Turk being very roughly handled by the soldiers of the Tsar, but unfortunately there is not much evidence of this at the moment.



Cape Times.]
THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

AMERICAN CITIZEN: "And I suppose we are not something worth fighting for."



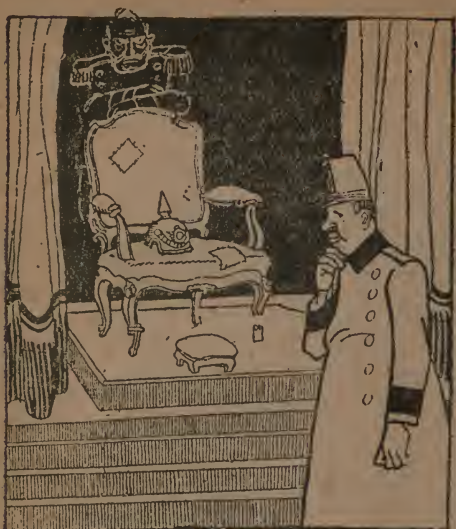
Le Rire.] TEUTON V. TANK. [Paris.
"Ten thousand devils! These tanks are—!"



Novi Satirikon.] [Petrograd.

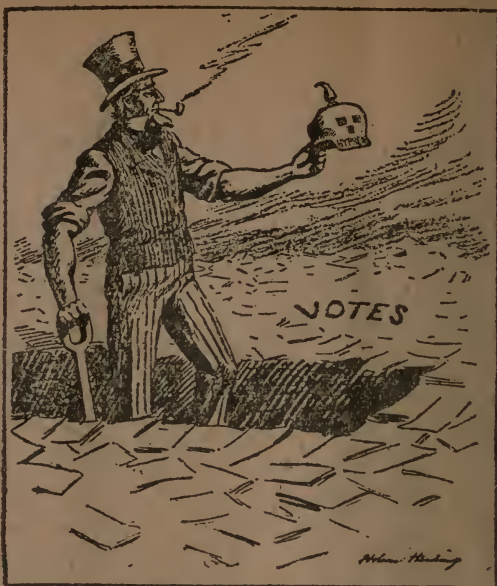
THE TROUBLED TURK.

TURK: "There's plenty of truth in the Russian proverb. 'Money does not create happiness.'"



Numero.] THE AUSTRIAN THRONE. [Turin.

EMPEROR CHARLES: "That does not look a very comfortable place to sit on."



Eagle.]

[Brooklyn, U.S.A.

ALAS, POOR YORICK!"

The two cartoons from Labour papers, reproduced herewith, pretty accurately reflect the general opinion of their readers concerning the recent fusion.



Labour Call.]

[Melbourne.

WITH LOVE ON THEIR LIPS AND HATE IN THEIR HEARTS.

BOTH: "My long lost brother! Let us embrace!"



Worker.]

[Brisbane.

THE LION IN THE PATH.
"There are still lions in the path of the new Government, amongst them the Senate."—Joe Cook on the Fusion.
JOE: "If we don't catch him napping, Billy, we're gone for a cert."

Will The War End This Year?

I have been asked innumerable questions about every subject connected with the war, but the most regular query addressed me, verbally or through the post, is: "When will the war end?" Although I have long held a definite opinion on this point, relied indeed months ago on the accuracy of that judgment for the making of arrangements for the future, I have never thus far dealt definitely with the matter in STEAD'S. The reason for this was not because I was afraid my forecast would prove wrong, but because, for causes well understood by my readers, I could not fully set forth the reasons which led me to arrive at the conclusion I had reached. So many people, though, have written, pointing out that I was wrong about the coming of a Peace Conference, that I will endeavour, so far as is allowable, to set forth why I assumed that peace *pourparlers* would be held during the early months of 1917, why I still feel sure that the war will end this year. It is somewhat difficult, limited as one is, to deal understandingly with the matter, but the attempt is perhaps worth making.

If we go back a little we find that the German peace proposals synchronised with notable changes in administration in every Allied country. In England, in France, in Russia, in Italy, Prime Ministers were changed or Ministries were remodelled. To the onlooker it was obvious enough that there must have been some connection between the enemy suggestions and the Allied changes. What that connection was remains, of course, a matter for speculation. It may be that the German peace proposals had been privately conveyed to *Entente* Governments before they were announced to the world, and it is conceivable that a political upheaval was necessary to prevent their consideration by those who were, at the moment, in control of Allied affairs. Knowing already that their enemies would spurn their advances, the Germans may then have determined to show themselves to neutrals and enemy peoples as anxious for peace, demonstrate to the world in general that the responsibility for the continuance of the war rested on the Allies—not on them. Concerning the success or failure of that move, we have, here, no-

thing to do, but, if the above supposition be correct, the widespread announcement of peace overtures by Germany was obviously an adroit manoeuvre on the part of the Teutons.

If we assume that the change in the Governments of Great Britain, France and Russia was caused by the German peace proposals, then clearly the new men were put in power in order to achieve something quickly, which would demonstrate the wrongfulness of talking about peace at all whilst the foe held so much Allied territory. The new men had obviously to do something; that was why they took office. Having done that something, or having failed to do it, peace talk would again be heard. Their coming on the scene, then, may be said to have held up the discussion of terms pending the result of the measures they were to adopt to win the war outright, and, on the success or failure of their efforts, must depend the length of the war. It is further clear enough that Britain's share in the coming efforts is to be a large one, that, in fact, the only hope of supreme victory the Allies now have rests on England. It is London, not Paris or Petrograd, or Rome, which may now be regarded as the headquarters of the *Entente* forces. We might even go so far as to say that the Germans are probably not far wrong when they assert that it was Great Britain who blocked consideration of their peace proposals. At any rate, whether there be any truth in that statement or not, the Germans at once set about striking a blow at England, using for the purpose the only weapon they possess—the submarine. They, anyhow, appear to believe their assertion, and are concentrating their energies on the task of crippling England.

This line of argument leads to the conclusion that a supreme effort is to be made by the Allies, and quickly made, too. That effort has to finally demonstrate the ability of the *Entente* nations to overcome Germany in the field. If it does, in marked manner, so that there can be no doubt as to the final and early victory of the Allies, the war will end this year. If, on the other hand, the most violent *Entente* offensive fails to break the deadlock in the west, the causes operating against a further continuance of the

struggle are so strong that peace—in my opinion—is certain to come this year. The real question is whether the means the Allies are taking to win a crushing victory will give it them or not. Whether they will achieve a success, which justifies the refusal to even consider peace suggestions three months ago. If they do not, then we have Mr. Lloyd George's word for it that "any man or set of men who wantonly, or without sufficient cause, prolonged a terrible conflict like this would have on his soul a crime that oceans could not cleanse," a statement which justifies us in assuming that, if, during the next few months, our supreme attempt fails to end the deadlock, there will be no one found willing to shoulder the responsibility of further prolonging the war.

Field-Marshal Haig seems absolutely confident that we will break through, and, in view of their utterances concerning the responsibility that would rest on anyone prolonging the war without sufficient cause, that confidence must be shared by Lloyd George and his colleagues in England and abroad. All the same, it is worth reflecting on what the situation would be, supposing that confidence were misplaced. Supposing we bend the enemy front in Flanders, Picardy and Champagne, but fail to break it anywhere, supposing summer sees us battering the lines furiously at half-a-dozen places, but autumn finds them still intact, what then? There could be no hope of reaching a military decision in 1917, and, if the disappointment of 1916 be indeed repeated in 1917, the hope of success in 1918 would not be great, nor would it be possible for our leaders to again convince the people that, although they did not manage to break through in 1915, 1916, or 1917, they will certainly do so in 1918. There would be at least another year's hard and strenuous fighting ahead before the oft-deferred military success could be even distantly visioned. If this spring's offensive fails to pierce the enemy front, would the people of England, France, Italy and Russia be willing, this summer, to again settle down to another twelve months' fighting on the strength of official promises that the offensive of 1918 would certainly bring convincing victory? That is a question I do not intend to try and answer here, all I would do is to set forth briefly what another year's war would mean.

In our last number reference was made to the second Allied bowstring—the starvation string. It is possible that, failing a

decisive military victory in the west during 1917, we will again be asked to rely upon this second string to help us triumph over the enemy. If, during 1917, starvation has not brought the Germans to their knees dare we reasonably put our faith in its doing so during 1918, any more than we would venture to believe implicitly that military success, unattainable in 1917, would crown our efforts in 1918? My own view—which may be utterly wrong—is that time no longer fights on our side. We are now in better shape to achieve success and win victory than ever before, have a superiority over the enemy in men, in guns, in ammunition, in aircraft never greater, but we are at the summit of our endeavour. If we miss success this year, as we missed it last, I cannot see why victory in 1918 would be certain, for, whilst we may possibly add further to our strength, the French cannot be expected to do so, and the united power of the Allies is not likely to be greater in 1918 than in 1917. Whilst, so long as they content themselves with merely holding on, the enemy are not likely to be much weaker in men, certainly no weaker in artillery and munitions generally next year than they are this. Nor, if the enemy escape starvation during the next six months can I conceive that lack of food will oblige them to give in before the harvest of 1918 is reaped.

Believing these things I regard the present spring offensive as being of the very highest importance. On its success or failure rests the whole future of Europe. The Allies—in my opinion—are being given a great chance to win victory, but a *final* chance. If Haig does not break through before September he may possibly not pierce the enemy front at all. A failure to get through does not of course mean that the Allies would be beaten. It would merely demonstrate the deadlock unbreakable, bring us back again to the position of last December, when Germany put out her peace feelers which we so summarily rejected. In view of such a demonstration I hold it inevitable that next autumn, at latest, there will be peace talk again, and we shall see the beginning of the end. In these reflections I am assuming, remember, that the deadlock is unbreakable, and, for the comfort of those who consider me to be unduly pessimistic, I must call special attention to the statements of Haig, Lloyd George, Briand, Nivelle and a host of correspondents to the effect that, thanks to our immense superiority in men and guns, we

can certainly smash our way through. If we do, of course, the peace negotiations would be on a quite different footing but that there will be further peace talk this year, I am sure.

What would a further year's war, after, let us say, next August, mean to the Allies? Would it not mean such tremendous financial burdens that, by comparison, even the dreaded compromise peace would be acceptable? The German submarine campaign has achieved a measure of success, enough to demonstrate to everyone the danger of such a menace if U boats became more efficient. With another year's war ahead they would possibly become both more numerous and more efficient. That is self-evident, for underwater warfare brings its own experience, and the fact that the submarine is the only weapon the enemy can use against Great Britain, makes certain that there will be no halt in the turning out of these sea sharks. France, during 1916, was obliged to import more foodstuffs than ever before, and, during 1917, she will have to look increasingly over sea for grain and meat, whilst she is obliged to rely entirely on other countries for coal and iron. With Russia still isolated, with tonnage getting scarcer and scarcer, the cost of wheat, of coal, of meat, of iron, of copper and of foodstuffs generally must further increase, and already the high prices have brought serious hardships in their train. Not only will the people have to pay more for necessities, but their Governments must become increasingly dependent upon Great Britain for financial assistance.

At the present moment the war is costing England almost £6,000,000 a day, a figure which has been reached by steady increases since the struggle began. In view of the certainty that greater assistance in future will have to be given her Allies, the need for finding interest on moneys already borrowed, and for the provision of pensions, it is by no means improbable that, in another six months' time, the daily outgoings will have reached, if not passed, the £7,000,000 mark! At the present moment £100,000,000 must be found annually to pay the interest alone on long-dated loans. The interest payable on short-dated Treasury Bills demands a further £70,000,000 at least. War pensions are estimated at £25,000,000. Interest on 5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds, maturing in 1919, 1920 and 1921, requires £16,000,000; and on 6 per cent. Bonds, maturing in 1920, £9,000,000

—altogether £220,000,000, or £600,000 per day. To this would have to be added, six months hence, the interest on at least £1,000,000,000, which, during that time, would have been borrowed for war purposes—viz., £60,000,000, just about £165,000 a day. Thus we see that the interest Bill, and pensions, must inevitably involve an expenditure of at least £765,000 a day by next September. This calculation takes no account of the interest payable on loans raised in the United States, of provision for the redemption of War Expenditure Certificates and War-Saving Certificates, or of the war debt sinking funds, which, if allowed for—as, indeed, they must be—would bring the daily dead-weight expenditure to at least £1,000,000.

Not only must the daily expenditure increase like a growing snowball by the interest on the money borrowed to meet that expenditure, but, as the army is swelled by conscripted men, the cost of feeding and paying them must be added to the daily total. The following table shows how the daily cost has steadily increased:—

Period.	Average Daily Expenditure.
Aug. 4, 1914, to March 31, 1915 ...	£1,500,000
April 1, 1915, to March 31, 1916 ...	3,836,000
April 1, 1916, to July 31, 1916 ...	4,930,000
Aug. 1, 1916, to Dec. 31, 1916 ...	5,500,000
Jan. 1, 1917, to Feb. 28, 1917 (est.)	6,000,000

The rapid daily increase since July of last year is due principally to the introduction of compulsory service, which, presumably, increased the army by at least a million men. The full effects of conscription have, however, not yet been felt financially, and the combing-out process, now going on, together with the calling up of those temporarily exempted, may possibly add another million. The British Tommy gets 1/- per day, and it costs at least 5/- to feed him. Taking these two items alone, we find that for every million soldiers the daily cost is at least £300,000. Not only has the soldier to be paid, but his dependants have to be provided for; he has to be equipped, and gigantic quantities of rifles, guns, cartridges and other ammunition must be provided. Taking all these things into consideration, it is pretty obvious that the daily war bill of Great Britain will next September be well over £7,000,000; to reckon it at that would indeed be an underestimate. Some of this expenditure would, of course, be met by direct taxation—at the very outside £500,000 a day—and some of it, being in

the shape of loans to Dominions and Allies, will, in time, be recoverable, but meanwhile Great Britain has to find the money.

Definite information as to the exact daily expenditure of our Allies is difficult to get, for, naturally, like our own, it is constantly increasing. We know, however, that last October the Russians were spending £3,750,000 daily, and the French £4,000,000. Some of the Italian expenditure, and all of the Serbian and Belgian, must be included in the British total. Assuming, however, that the French and Russians are able to carry on the war during this year, at a cost not exceeding their last year's expenditure, and, estimating the Italian outlay to be £1,250,000 daily, apart from the money obtained from England, we get the following rough estimate of what it would cost the Allies to carry on the war for twelve months after next August:—

Great Britain, daily cost	£7,000,000
France, daily cost	4,000,000
Russia, daily cost	3,750,000
Italy, daily cost	1,250,000

Total daily cost £16,000,000

Cost for twelve months—£16,000,000 × 365 =
£5,840,000,000.

I have set forth the financial position at some length, because it is going to have tremendous influence on the duration of the struggle. Great Britain is the mainstay of the Alliance now, and her immense resources have, thus far, enabled her to marvellously carry the gigantic burden thrown on her, but statesmen are already beginning to refer to those resources as not being illimitable. As I have shown the interest charges Great Britain will have to meet next August, including pensions, will be at least £1,000,000 a day, not less than £365,000,000 per annum. A further year of war would involve her, at the very lowest estimate, in at least £2,000,000,000 more, probably in £2,500,000,000. The interest on the lesser sum would be £100,000,000—a tax of £2 per head on every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom! If the war goes on until August, 1918, the annual burden the British people would have to bear, as a direct consequence of the terrific struggle, would be at least £500,000,000—a sum so colossal that one cannot truly realise what it means. In times of peace the revenue of Great Britain had mounted to the record sum of £200,000,000. During 1916 heavy war taxation almost doubled this sum, but, even

if the revenue in 1918 were treble that in 1913, it would not provide enough money to pay the interest bill, and carry on the ordinary services of the country. Those who so lightly talk about a four, five or six years' war have surely overlooked the question of finance.

In France, the terrific drain, too, must begin to tell. Like England, she has to send much of her money abroad, for she can no longer carry on on her own production. Italy is, of course, in worse financial case than any other *Entente* Power, for not only must she import great stocks of grain and iron and coal, but, compared to the French and British, her people are poor. Russia is probably in the best position of all, as she, like Germany, has been forced to become self-contained. All she buys from overseas are munitions of war, which she has been able to pay for, with British assistance, by raising loans in Japan and America. Her ability to get these munitions, however, depends largely upon England, and without mighty quantities of guns and shells it has again and again been demonstrated that no headway at all can be made against the Germans.

Undoubtedly, financial consideration will be a deciding factor in favour of peace this autumn—European autumn of course. Another important factor must be the food supply.

Lloyd George is urging the farmers to plant more wheat, to cultivate potatoes, and to break up new land, but, unfortunately, try they never so hard, they will find it impossible to catch up the seasons. Spring wheat is already being sown, and to break up new land requires time. The effect of the present efforts will not be much felt until the summer of 1918. Until the crops are harvested in July, August and September, a year hence, Great Britain and France and Italy will have to rely upon grain from Canada, Australia, Argentina and the United States. They must be increasingly dependent, too, upon overseas countries for meat. If the submarine peril disappears, the food question will still present a serious problem. If it continues, that question will be the most urgent of all, whatever be the outcome of the proximate offensive. There are other matters which will have influence, but these two factors are the principal causes which will make the continuance of war into 1918—in my opinion—impossible. Of the two, finance is the greatest, for, even if the submarines continue to roam the seas, the menace, I

am convinced, will be scotched, and there will be no general interruption in the arrival of supplies in British, French and Italian ports.

If my reasoning be correct, it is obvious that the Allies, especially Great Britain and the Dominions, must immediately put forth every possible effort to win a definite decision this year. That financial and food problems will strongly urge the enemy to peace, whatever the result of the campaigns of 1918 may be, is certain, but an Allied

failure to break up the western deadlock—after peace discussion has been postponed, whilst the effort was made to end it—would cause the foe to be less inclined to modify their demands in the conference chamber in September, 1917, than in January, 1917, had their suggestions for a peace talk been hearkened to. Whatever the result of the 1917 offensive, we will surely have peace before 1918, although the incoming of the United States may radically alter the whole situation.

THE RE-MODELLING OF A NATION.

Arthur Gleason contributes to *The Century Magazine* a highly interesting article, entitled "The Social Revolution in England." For the first time in history, he says, the English are thinking in terms of a state. Not, it is true, as the German thinks, for the Englishman wants to be let alone for all his personal choices, no card indexing of the community for vocational work for him. He wants to disagree with official statements. He will not be coerced even for his good, as that good is seen by another.

The blood spilled by the working-classes at the front has been justified by the profound modifications wrought in English consciousness. A nation mobilised and under arms is a rich field for radical ideas. Blood fertilises the soil for change. Those of the school of Curzon and Gwynne, who believed that the good old days of special privilege would be restored by conscription, are doomed to an awakening more thorough than befell the French reactionaries of 1790. For this is not an affair of a few noble heads. It is the remaking of a nation.

It has needed the war to demonstrate that high wages give high productiveness, that a well-fed, self-respecting, healthy workman can do more work than an undernourished, servile workman. If a good product is required, good wages must be given. It has also shown that if workmen want high wages they must work efficiently.

If they cut down productiveness there is no money to pay them. The war has smoked the workers out. Their sacred secret processes which required hours to work have turned out as simple as building-blocks. It is public knowledge now, the time it takes to do a piece of factory work. For years the worker has been limiting his output. A manufacturer of marine engines states that where thirteen rivets were turned out before the war, seventy are now being made by the same number of workers. The worker is

making the same fight here that he made when he broke the first machines. The machines were robbing him of his living, he thought. Instead of that, they have given more men a better living. Of late years the worker has been fighting his own productivity. How is shrinking wealth to give him an expanding wage? Where is the money to come from? As a method in a given emergency, sabotage and limitation of output are effective; but as a nation-wide policy they are instruments that cut the hands of the user. The trade unions surrender their hard-won regulations, and suddenly production leaps up as if it had been released from a dead-weight. They are still insisting on Government guarantees that the old restrictions will be handed back to them after the war. It would be flattering to write that it is by labour that the constructive thinking is being done, but it would be untrue. There is absence of patient thought, lack of a constructive programme, the muddle of a helpless creature caught unawares in a tidal wave.

Mr. Gleason has no doubt at all that the war has really been of immense benefit to Great Britain.

This war has wakened England. It has made the working man work at full-tilt for the first time in his life. He has been willing to do it, because the product served a national purpose instead of the profit of another person. He has been physically able to do it, because an increased wage gave him better food. He has discovered how to do it, because the pressure of necessity has unlocked brain cells which in ordinary times would have required a term of education to co-ordinate. The war has turned the middle-class home inside out, and freed the respectable unemployed into usefulness. It has given new and more active forms of employment to women caught in domestic service and the parasitic trades of "refined" dressmaking, millinery and candy manufacture. Finally, the war has given a career to upper-class Englishmen. For the first time in their lives they feel they have found something active to do through noble sacrifice. The sigh of relief that went up at the discovery that life was at last worth

living, if only because of its brevity, was echoed in the poetry of officers as it drifted back from the trenches.

The war made clear that England had been lagging in agriculture, industry and applied science; she was losing her stride in the modern world.

To put the matter clearly and frankly, an anaemia had spread over English life in recent generations. Through lack of vocational training, the working man had lost ambition, and his power of production had lost pace with German and American workers. The huddled, sheltered, unproductive lives of middle-class people were often without direction and purpose because they were untrained. The upper class had lost power of constructive leadership in the traditions of an education unrelated to the realities of modern life.

To maintain the increased activity after the war will, says Mr. Gleason, require an enlarged system of State education.

Vocational training must be given to the young in place of the present laissez-faire policy, which lets children slip out from control, at the age of fourteen and even younger, into "blind-alley" pursuits. England will have to be remodelled or else lose her place among the nations.

If she fails to take action in accelerating industrial democracy, she will see her surviving young men sailing in droves for Canada and Australia. . . . If England fails, she will be stripped of men, and will become a feminist nation. But she will not fail. The penalty is too severe.

He says that, although only half a million women have entered industry, that figure is but a fraction of the number of women who have transferred their activity from domestic service, and the parasitic trades to the main channels of industry.

In munitions alone four hundred thousand women have stepped over from unregulated hours and low wages to sharply defined hours and comparatively high wages. These women, and several hundred thousand others in factory processes, in railway, tramcar, and omnibus work, and in business superintendence, have "tasted blood." By that I mean they have won an increased freedom and independence, however imperfect even yet, and a higher wage. To send them "home" will prove a task larger than the paper resolutions of any men's trade union that women workers must give up their jobs.

Women's irritating presence in industry has emphasised the demand for proper working conditions. It has sharpened the wage controversy, and it has revealed the need of far-reaching measures to deal with the unemployment situation that the nation will face on the day of peace. Women are not

going to enter industry. They have already entered it, and half a million fresh workers have been added. It is clear that increasing the number of workers does not lessen the problem of a living wage. There is only one answer to the violently acute situation, which has been forced by these women, and which will come to a crisis when six million men hang their khaki in the closet. The areas of production must be widened not tenderly and with the imperceptible gradualness of a natural process, but swiftly.

Mr. Gleason considers that this rapid widening can be effected—(1) by breaking the land up into small holdings, (2) by the State instituting new fields of activity, and helping to establish new industries, (3) by the extension of State activities throughout the Empire in cattle-raising, the development of raw lands and the like. Only in this way can the grave unemployment situation be met which must arise after the war is over. Even now, he says, that the lot of the agricultural labourer in England is miserable, slums remain in the industrial cities, and an immense number of workers are still being shockingly underpaid. He concludes that wages and hours remain the heart of the social movement, but the demand by labour for a voice in the control of their working conditions must now be hearkened to. Much has been said about the new brotherhood of the trenches which is going to mean such a lot by and by:—

One of the most distinguished English writers said to me:

"Do you think working men will ever feel bitterly again, now that they have seen their officers leading them and dying for them?"

It did not occur to her to inquire how gallantry in an infantry charge would prove a substitute for a living wage. There will be brotherhood after the war if the privileged classes pay a living wage; but from what some of their representatives have said to me I gather that brotherhood is to be practised by the workers in ceasing to agitate for the basic conditions of a decent life.

When the soldiers come back, they will know their strength, their service to the nation will be acknowledged:—

Soldiers and workers are the same men, inside the small area of an island. At one stroke war won those things for which in peace a portion of the English people seek in vain: proper food, correct conditions for efficiency, a pension for dependants, high honour for service, a common sacrifice, and, embracing all like a climate, a favouring public opinion, a great universal equality. They will demand that the same humanity be let loose into their daily life of the factories. Is the basic work of peace less worthy than trench routine?

A NAPOLEONIC SITUATION, BUT NO BONAPARTE !

Articles by our military experts on the Roumanian campaign are now arriving in Australia. Intensely interesting they are, too. Not a few of these writers admit a grudging admiration of the strategy and tactics shown by the enemy, and the manner in which they achieved the apparently impossible. Major Stuart-Stephens is pretty frank in *The English Review*. He begins by asking the following question :—

When is an army of to-day no longer an army? To which may be answered, "When shell-famine closes its bouche de feu." Such was the position of the Roumanian forces retreating on Bucharest—and beyond. Here was an army, vastly numerically superior, retiring before two invading columns, each in point of numbers of apparently negligible value, and each separated from the other by apparently a non-negotiable gap as to space and time, accentuated by—again apparently—insurmountable natural obstacles. Here was a situation which a trifle more than a hundred years ago would have been airily disposed of by Napoleon by a pinch of snuff, some play with his handkerchief, and the remark over his shoulder to the nearest of his moustached confidants, "I have got them now." But if the great master of the greatest of all games had been leading the Roumanian army in the same circumstances as that of the retreat from the Danube, he would have had to confess himself hopelessly baffled. In the "Little Corporal's" day Murat would probably have temporarily relieved so exasperating a situation by a wide-sweeping cavalry movement, resulting in the capture of a useful proportion of the divided and numerically inferior enemy's ammunition provision.

But the aeroplane has ruled out the possibility of a cavalry surprise and big guns have bigger guns to beat them.

Apparently—throughout apparently—the rules of the game were in favour of Roumania. "Military commentators," official and otherwise, had reassured the non-military lieges of these realms that (1) the wide dispersion of the invaders clearly invited in detail disastrous defeat: (2) that an overwhelming reinforcement of Russians was en route; (3) and, most convincing of all, that the Berlin General Staff were the very last authorities on the face of the globe to take wild-cat risks.

All these comforting expectations have failed to materialise. The decisive thrust for Bucharest was pushed home uninterfered with by the phantom menace of a Russian army in overpowering force—an army which, like "the Spanish ships, are not in view because they are not yet in sight."

As I have already said, the Berlin General Staff, contrary to the almost universally expressed opinion in this non-military country of ours, will unhesitatingly take risks when their superb Intelligence Service has made plain the strategic and tactical inferiority of an opponent.

The gallant Major gives instances—Königgratz and Sedan—to show that the German staff has taken risks before, and will take them again.

But, apart from the daring strategy displayed by the brain of the Kaiser's war-machine, the feature which compels my unwilling admiration is the manner in which the enemy's leaders have successfully overcome within the indispensable time limit seemingly insurmountable geographical obstacles. First there was the problem of the mountain passes of the Carpathian Alps. Never since the achievement of the crossing of the greater Alps by those masters of war, Hannibal and Napoleon, has a general been confronted with a greater task in military engineering than the forcing of the mountain roads that led into the last Teutonic conquest. . . . The mountain campaign undertaken by the German invader was on a scale similar to that won by Sir Frederick (afterwards Lord) Roberts in 1878-79 in Afghanistan, the difference being that the man from Berlin had to turn, as a dernier ressort, not one, but a score of Peiwar Kotul Passes. Then that truly marvellous achievement, the passage of the Danube, one of the widest riverways on the European continent, and possessed of a current in parts running to a velocity of eighteen miles an hour. . . . Observe from the back windows of the Savoy, or other commanding vantage-point, the sluggish waters of old Father Thames pursuing their tranquil way, at the most tumultuous section of the river's course, at an impetuosity of only four miles to the sixty minutes, and consider what a marvellous feat was accomplished when the enemy pioneer battalions improvised the safe passage for an invading host of Europe's most important internal water frontier. Until this impressive achievement in military engineering was a veritable fait accompli not a whisper of what was in progress was permitted to reach the world's press. Again Prussian secrecy cloaking preparation for a Prussian coup de main, as with the encircling movement around Macmahon's doomed army at Sedan.

He mentions that three pontoon bridges were thrown across the Danube, each wide enough to permit of the "break-step" march of infantry in double fours. The pontoons were towed into position by torpedo boats, after the Roumanian craft of a

like kind had been captured, and were anchored with a new type of pontoon boat anchor—an American invention. The enemy artillery covered the operation:—

The number and abundant munitionment of the enemy 12-in. "Long Toms" so completely dominated the Roumanian artillery on the northern bank that islet after islet was, without appreciable loss, linked up. Again the lesson of satisfying the monstrous appetite of the *bouche de feu* of the armies of to-day. The Roumanian lean 3-in. and 6-in. cannon and howitzers were starving for their metallic and chemical food. *Au contraire*, "Fat Bertha" and her sisters were allotted double diet. Always the lesson of this artillery war—shells, and more of them, big guns, and still yet bigger guns.

The Major considers the greatest blow to the Allied cause was the conquest of the oil-bearing zone. He estimates the stock of petrol in the country at the time of the invasion at some million tons. He concludes:—

The result of this surprising campaign is now unveiled for the edification of that

"eminent military critic," as the late Lord Salisbury sarcastically described our old friend, the "man in the street." Germany has secured for herself, after perhaps contemptuously tossing to Austria a crust or two, all that she is in urgent need of: fats for human beings, who cannot go on living interminably without life-warming fat with their daily bread; fats for her guns, which cannot continue very much longer in action without a reliable provision of fat for the manufacture of high explosives; flour for her war-bread; fodder for her horse transport; and, more than all, oil for her motor transport. The future provision of oil obtained by Roumania's conquest is simply staggering.

The almost certain political result of this last German coup will be that the Balkan nations, with their twenty-four millions, and Turkey, with her twenty-one millions, must, willy-nilly, serve the interests of Berlin; while an Ottoman Empire subservient to the German Empire will form a bridge to Asia and Africa, to India and Egypt, thus menacing the Caucasus and Russian Central Asia. All depends for us now on General Sarrail being able to hold the Salonika zone; and there his position is rendered less comfortable by the presence practically in his rear of King Tino and his ingrates.

THE NEW BROOMS.

Auditer Tantum gives some enlightening sketches of the members of the new British Government in *The Fortnightly Review*. He deals first with the manœuvres which led to the replacement of Asquith by Lloyd George. It is worth quoting, in this connection, what Austin Harrison has to say on the subject in his magazine, *The English Review*:—

The right thing has been done at last, and the "Indispensables" have made way for a National Government with some assurance of responsibility. A little audacity, that was all that was needed. As Beaumarchais is said to have made the French Revolution, so the "Daily Mail" brought about our little revolution; for that it is a revolution both in party and public life no man can doubt, though probably it is only a foretaste of the changes that will be forced upon us with the progress of the war. Britain looks gratefully to the man who performed this needful task, the new Prime Minister, but Britain must not forget that the man who made it so easy for Mr. Lloyd George to prick the bubble of "indispensability" is the man who has inspired every necessary step so far in the war—Lord Northcliffe.

Mr. Harrison is evidently a "whole-hogger," as far as Northcliffe is concerned! One wonders whether the "King-maker" will rest long satisfied with his handiwork. It must be a grievous disappointment to

him that Mr. Hughes is not handy to use, as before, as a stick wherewith to beat the Government should occasion arise!

Of the old guard, says *Auditer Tantum*, only Mr. Herbert Samuel was asked to join the Government by Lloyd George. Many of Mr. Asquith's colleagues had their own quarrel with Lloyd George. "It has long been notorious what indifferent relations subsisted between him and Mr. McKenna, and what bond of union lay between him and Mr. Harcourt."

Mr. Asquith in some directions was singularly tolerant of mediocrity, and probably the disappearance of Mr. Pease, Mr. McKinnon Wood, and Mr. Tennant from the Council Chamber signifies about as much as a change of hearthrug. Nor will Mr. Harcourt's retirement occasion much public sorrow. He is one of the mystery men of English public life, so quietly and noiselessly does he move, so rarely and so choicely does he speak. But he seldom breaks silence without creating an indefinable impression of intrigue. And yet at the Colonial Office there is a saying that he was the best Secretary of State they have had since Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. In opposition he will be a constant source of danger. Still more will Mr. McKenna. There is an old feud between him and Mr. Lloyd George, and unless Mr. McKenna receives a new baptism of grace—for which one would say that he is not a very likely subject—its acerbity will now be accentuated. True, he was vastly

polite and cordial to Mr. Bonar Law when the latter moved his first Vote of Credit. Nothing could have been more generous than his words of congratulation and the promise of his fullest support. But these are early days, and he may soon be sorely tempted to flash that menacing forefinger of his across the table at the new Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Runciman's departure from the Board of Trade has excited very mingled feelings. His great ability is everywhere recognised. His practical knowledge of shipping has stood him in good stead. He handles figures as though he were their master and not they his. He has proved himself able to drive a good bargain. His speeches have uniformly been on the highest level of business ability. Nevertheless, he stands for the most stubborn Manchesterism, and if the problems of Imperial Trade and Home Production are to be tackled boldly and courageously, and if the resolutions of the Paris Economic Conference are to be turned into realities, it will be a good thing for the British Government that Mr. Runciman has left the Board of Trade. Better have him as a fiery and able antagonist than a lukewarm friend, entrenched in the citadel of the Government Department most immediately concerned. Mr. Montagu is a real loss, for he is fresh and alert, where so many of his colleagues were stale and tired. Mr. Samuel is the living embodiment of correct and efficient bureaucracy. Lord Crewe is Lord Crewe. As for Lord Grey, the Balkans and Greece have been the temporary grave of his high reputation, and everyone must regret for his own fame that he was persuaded to stay on against his will when the Coalition was formed in May, 1915. His reputation for spotless probity is a proud possession for himself and for England.

Many were quite confident that Lloyd George could not form a Cabinet, for he had "insulted" Labour, and was preparing to fasten on it the bonds of industrial compulsion. The clever Welshman, however, set himself at once to win Labour support and brilliantly succeeded.

A single conference was enough, for he went to it ready primed with generous terms. He did not wait for demands to be made. He offered with both hands. He pledged his new Government to the nationalisation of shipping and mines during the war; he proposed the very Ministry of Labour for which they had long asked in vain; he gave Labour a seat in the Cabinet of Five which is to be endowed with virtually all the powers of the old War Committee and Cabinet combined; he gave them the Pensions Minister and two Under-Secretaryships. Without hesitation the country recognised and applauded the boldness of the stroke and the audacity of the mind which had conceived it. Labour gained far more than any of its members had dared to hope, and the most formidable Parliamentary obstacle was skilfully cleared out of the path!

There has long been talk about a "business" Government. Mr. George has brought one into being. After ridiculing some former appointments to the Presidency of the Board of Agriculture *Auditer Tantum* says:—

England has paid dearly for her folly in allowing the politicians—both parties are equally to blame—to run the Board of Agriculture as a vote-catching machine. Mr. R. E. Prothero carries to his new office a new mind and a new outlook, and Captain Charles Bathurst, who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of practical agriculture, is also to be employed as Under-Secretary and agricultural adviser to the Food Controller, Lord Devonport. Thus, after seventy years, Great Britain at last stands a chance of having once more a national agricultural policy. So, too, with the appointment of Dr. H. A. L. Fisher to the Ministry of Education. That was another characteristic stroke of the Prime Minister's genius, for who but he would have dared to look outside the ranks of his political followers for a Minister of Education?

Lord Rhondda, another daring touch, goes to the Local Government Board in succession to Mr. Walter Long. The two men admirably typify the old system and the new. Mr. Long stands for the vanishing past. He represents the country gentlemen—the men with a stake in the country—who used to have it all their own heavy, unimaginative way in the House of Commons. Mr. Long's abilities are respectable enough, but by no means of a first-rate order, and he now goes to the Colonial Office, where he is sure to act with bustling conscientiousness, but where he will leave no mark. Other times, other men. Mr. Long is a popular survival of Victorianism; Lord Rhondda is the incarnation of the modern business spirit. He is a captain of industry on the American model. He has vast commercial interests throughout the world. He stands for Capital, no doubt, but he stands also for world Trade, and that is one of the biggest problems before the British Empire. An ordinary Prime Minister would have shuddered at the thought of bringing Lord Rhondda into his Government, lest Labour should consider it as a challenge. But Lord Rhondda enters the Government door side by side with Mr. Hodge and Mr. Barnes, and Lord Devonport enters too, though he, it is believed, was ruled out from being Food Controller by the late Government just because he was supposed to be unpopular with the working classes. There is in all these appointments courage, freshness, and a new touch. The same may be said of Sir Albert Stanley's appointment to the Board of Trade, which we hope may be whitewashed or distempered throughout before he enters it, so that the trade problems of Great Britain and the Empire may be judged in relation to the facts of the world as they are, and not as they ought to be. Shipping has a new department of its own; Sir Alfred Mond becomes First Commissioner of Works; Mr. Lever succeeds Mr. McKinnon Wood. If these

men of great business experience and capacity cannot make the dry bones dance in the valley of Whitehall, nothing will and can but national bankruptcy. The officials, however, are well entrenched, and vested interests are powerful. These new Ministers will need the continued support of Parliament and public opinion.

Auditer Tantum claims that Lloyd George has given the country not only a new Government, but, in fact, a new constitution. The Cabinet of five, which is virtually a triumvirate, is a temporary war measure only, of course, but other innovations have come to stay.

Triumvirates have not been very successful in history, but that is because the Triumvirs have always been bitter rivals, each striving after the supreme power. There is no danger of that sort in the present Cabinet—the one object of which is the salvation of the State and the winning of the war. Lord Milner's inclusion is an especially hopeful portent; his are just the talents

required by the emergency—coolness, courage, a trained mind, and a thoroughness which will leave nothing to chance. For eleven years the country has made no real use of his great abilities; now that strength and fearlessness are the prime attributes required in our rulers he steps once more into a commanding position. Lord Curzon is an acknowledged master of affairs, and for driving force and impetus there is the Prime Minister himself—quick, fearless, confident, and, above all, able to inspire others with his own sure faith in victory.

Will the Government last? is a question which *Auditer Tantum* answers by suggesting that it would be well advised to be ready for storm and tempest. The presence of the former Liberal Cabinet *in posse* on the front Opposition bench is all to the good, for, as long as they support the Government, it will be the better for their strengthening criticism; but the occasions of temptation will be many, and the temptations themselves will be strong.

L. J. MAXSE EXULTETH.

That Mr. Maxse would have a wild shriek of exultation in *The National Review* over Mr. Asquith's fall was to be expected, but he has excelled even himself in the vituperativeness of his comments on what he calls the "Debate of Downing Street." He begins his pæan of triumph in this wise:—

So at last the Impossible, the Unthinkable, happened. The Indispensables have been sent about their business. Our one and only Prime Minister is merged in the populace, and though he and his zereba of sycophants may still nourish dreams of future greatness in which they may complete the ruin of our unfortunate country, most of us feel that the door is now finally "banged, barred, and bolted" on the sinister Haldane gang who brought England nearer to the abyss than she had ever been before. In truth, the tragic Triumvirate could only reappear as rulers of a nation that had consciously thrown up the sponge. The very guns in the hands of every "live" man would go off should they ever emerge to lay hands on the Government, and there would be nothing for it but a military pronunciamento. So long as the British Empire keeps its head above water and remains a going concern, another Asquith Administration, or indeed any Administration in which Asquithianism was a serious factor, would appear to be as unthinkable as its downfall was declared to be.

Here are a few of the phrases with which he garnishes his scream over Lord Northcliffe's—or is it his own?—victory. "The merit of Lloyd George is to have rescued the community from the atmosphere of

'death, disaster and damnation,' into which we had been plunged by the decade of Wait and See, from which the Parliamentary experts asseverated there was no exit." It would be interesting to look back and find what our firebrand said of Lloyd George during the fight for industrial insurance, or when he laid his sacrilegious hands on the holy land of the nobility!

"A great scoundrel might be a great man, and do a great man's work at an epoch evoking all his energies, but there is one type that never rise to any occasion—namely, the type to which Don't Care Asquith belongs." "Once this cold-blooded cynic realised that he was Indispensable and Irremovable, there was no hope for the country, no hope for the Dominions or the Allies." "But speaking generally they—the Unionists—were content to form a Cabinet which will remain a byword for all time, whose recent demise has been hailed everywhere as our one real stroke of luck during the war."

It is not surprising that Mr. Maxse piles every sin in the calendar upon the late Government, holds Mr. Asquith and Viscount Grey directly responsible for almost all the disasters which have befallen the Allies since the war began! "It is notoriously a sign of weak intellect to imagine oneself the victim of some sinister conspiracy. Our asylums are full of idiots cherishing such delusions. Apparently Mr.

Asquith has succumbed to this hallucination."

He and his friends are eloquent upon "intrigues" and are obsessed as regards "the machinations of the Northcliffe Press," which is accused of destroying an immortal Coalition and of driving into the cold shades of Opposition its unrivalled chief, to say nothing of the incomparable Grey, the unimpeachable McKenna, the pure and immaculate Harcourt, and the other Runcimans. Were the charge true it would be the greatest service ever rendered by any subject to any sovereign or any country, and we might hope to hear that Lord Northcliffe had received that Garter and Earldom which His Majesty is alleged, erroneously we feel sure, to have offered to the fallen Minister who, given time, would undoubtedly have wrecked his Empire and his dynasty. After a hideous nightmare hope has been rekindled in British bosoms. Without detracting one iota from the signal achievements of Lord Northcliffe, who has played an historic and patriotic part at this crisis of our fate, is it not conceivable that these "very wise men," like Lord Haldane before them, cut their own throats.

Mr. Maxse considers that we had a "hairbreadth escape" from beginning to talk peace with Germany! Owe our salvation in fact to Lloyd George, assisted, of course, by Lord Northcliffe, who made an "offensive against the Coalition that foggy Friday afternoon," and brought about the fall of Mr. Asquith and his colleagues, the "Haldane gang" as Mr. Maxse calls them. This is what he says about it:—

Now that the nightmare is over and there is no chance of the return of the Asquithites unless we lose the war, in which case nothing matters, there can be no harm in admitting that there had been perilous talk in Ministerial circles, especially those supposed to be in closest touch with the Prime Minister. As everything that is said and done in London is faithfully reported to Berlin by the endless enemy agents in our midst, especially International Jews, who probably utilise some of the cackling women who frequent Ministerial houses (to whom nothing is sacred and from whom nothing is kept), we may be sure that Potsdam was aware that some Ministers were talking early in the year of November as a probable peace month, while upon the lips of various busybodies in the official world was heard the fatal word "armistice." Again, our aged men were full of forebodings concerning the future and speculating as to the possibility of "a reasonable peace," perhaps casting

wistful eyes towards Washington as a conceivable source of salvation. The Germans would know all this, and a great deal more that cannot be printed yet. They resolved to test the robustness of the Coalition by a ballon d'essai which would derive a certain sentimental advantage if floated on the approach of Christmas. The ground was carefully reconnoitred and the sympathy of various neutrals enlisted. Count Bernstorff was abnormally active in the American capital, while every possible wire was being worked at the Vatican. Nations so far apart as Spain and Sweden were expected to co-operate. The International Jew in touch with Downing Street must have reported "All clear," or so clever a man as Mr. Jacob Schiff—the head of Kuhn, Loeb and Co., of New York, the Anglophobe friend of some of our hyphenated Huns in la haute finance, and the intimate of Mr. James Speyer, the brother of Sir Edgar Speyer—would not have gone off at half-cock.

Mr. Lloyd George had opportunely intervened with his famous "Hands off" interview with Mr. Roy Howard, of the United Press of America, directed to the address of neutrals, but doubtless equally intended for some of his colleagues. It enraged the Pacifists and caused no small commotion in the Cabinet. Mr. McKenna was rabid. Viscount Grey pulled a very long face. He was grieved that anybody should be so brusque and pugnacious as the War Minister in this breezy utterance which momentarily nipped the plot in the bud. But the plotters were not done with; their programme was far advanced. . . . There is no knowing what might or might not have happened but for Mr. Lloyd George's offensive against the Coalition that foggy Friday afternoon. The late Ministry were no more to be trusted over peace than over war. So long as they were "in being" there was always a risk of a peace panic, and the first thing we might have heard was that some sort of "armistice" was being discussed and that Lord Haldane was meeting Prince Bulow in Switzerland for an informal unofficial talk "as a preliminary to the coming International Conference at which a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding differences would be arrived at by adequate mutual goodwill among all Powers now in arms."

One would not go so far as to accuse the Coalition of consciously contemplating any such treason, nevertheless all well-wishers of England are immensely relieved that so many weary and worn-out men did not remain in the way of temptation, and it may be that any one with access to all the facts would form the deliberate opinion that it died in the nick of time, and that whatever may be the fate of Mr. Lloyd George's Government, its birth saved England and Europe from grave disaster.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

The *Asiatic Review* contains a generous appreciation by Baron de Heyking, the Imperial Russian Consul-General in London,

of the present great revival of Anglo-Russian intercourse and friendship. He recalls that it is only thirty-eight years since Great Britain stopped the victorious armies

of Russia at the very gates of Constantinople, laying it down as a rule that the city of Constantine must never be Russian; now, conjointly with France, she officially recognises the claims of the Tsardom to the town which is at once the entrance key to Russia and her real religious metropolis. What, asks the writer, is the meaning of this change from the rivalry and mistrust of the past to the trust and goodwill which now animate our feeling towards our great Eastern Ally?

Is it a fashionable craze, a mere bubble on the surface of the life of the nation, a passing whim and wish, or the result of the frenzy to win the war by mutual support against the common enemy? No; this splendid movement has much deeper roots, and is based on a much firmer foundation. It is founded alike on the dictates of reason and intelligence, as on the demands of the heart. It is also the result of a "perelom," a fundamental change in the character of this nation, which has perhaps no parallel in its history. A new and better order of things arises in such stocktaking times of great trial, when nations by the force of events part with preconceived ideas, erroneous conceptions of the past, and exploded bugbears of old. This refers specially to the impracticable idea of splendid isolation; the false conception of the unsympathetic foreigner as a whole, without making due allowances for the difference between friend and foe; and the ungrounded fear of Russia as the rival and enemy who endangers the safety of the British Empire.

For some years before the war the change had been manifesting itself—in more cordial and broader trade relations between the two countries, in a growing recognition and appreciation here of Russian art, literature, music and science; but, as the writer truly says, the most potent agency for bringing the two nations together, and for giving English people the right idea of Russia and Russian life has undoubtedly been the war:—

This great international calamity has brought about, not merely a rapprochement or mutual understanding, but a real union between the two nations—which has shown itself by a constant interchange of all that the two nations had—to assist each other at this most critical moment. Must we not remember with everlasting gratitude and emotion that Great Britain was ready to risk, and unfortunately did sacrifice, such an asset as Lord Kitchener, in her desire to benefit the Russian cause? And have we in Russia not sent our soldiers to fight along with our Allies in Greece, France, Mesopotamia, and other battlefields? The meaning and significance of the friendship which binds the two nations together is, therefore, of more than a lasting nature. It can be

considered as having been brought about by elementary forces of Nature, outside the volition of man. That friendship has come to stay, I hope, for ever.

ROBBING POSTERITY.

Dealing with "The Problem of Fuel," Mr. E. Fearon remarks, in an article in *Chambers's Journal*, that "for years past we have been using the world's resources with a lavish prodigality for which posterity will blame us, and which may handicap future generations very seriously indeed." At present, he says, coal is a very easy first, and may be said to be the only source of power worth consideration. Regarding the production and consumption of coal, the writer says:—

Taking the figures for 1913, America heads the list with 560,000,000 tons, Great Britain comes next with 287,000,000 tons, and Germany is third with 190,000,000 tons—a total of 1,037,000,000 tons, out of a total for the whole world of 1,250,000,000 tons.

The world's coal consumption is rapidly increasing year by year; in 1903 it was 800,000,000 tons; ten years later, 1,250,000,000 tons, an increase of 56 per cent. Taking an average figure of 5 per cent. per annum, and assuming that the increase continues, a simple calculation will show that our reserve cannot last very long, for the latest figures for Great Britain gave some 170,000,000,000 tons available—that is, seams of not less than one foot thick, and not more than four thousand feet below the surface of the ground.

As a matter of fact, the increase for Great Britain has been at the rate of just over 2 per cent. per annum; but, even so, in a little more than thirty years the consumption will have doubled, so that by 1945 it will be 570,000,000 tons; and if this increase is kept up it will be over 2,000,000,000 tons by the end of the century! As the reserve would be correspondingly diminished, we should have come to the end of our resources by 2030—only one hundred and fourteen years hence.

No doubt this is an extreme view; but the often expressed opinion that our coal supply, at the present rate of consumption, will last six hundred years, is also illogical, as the evidence is all against its remaining at the present rate. Even at 1 per cent. increase, two hundred years hence we should be raising 2,200,000,000 tons per annum, if any were left to be raised!

Mr. Fearon insists that in the use of coal for manufacturing purposes there is a vast field for economy, and he gives some striking figures to emphasise his point; while in the case of domestic fires, which use up about 40,000,000 tons annually, he urges people to use the most economical grate. He concludes:—

That economies can be effected is certain, and it remains for the Government to insist on their being effected, else, as a nation, we are going the right way to land ourselves in the bankruptcy court; for, deprived of our coal, there is no doubt that is where we shall end.

Another writer in the same magazine declares that the world will not perish for want of coal, but points out that it is necessary to leave as large a reserve as possible for the use of future generations.

JAPANESE PROGRESS.

Only when we ponder the carefully compiled facts and figures set out in the new issue of the *Financial and Economic Annual of Japan* do we realise the greatness of the success that has crowned the efforts of Japanese financiers and captains of industry. The balance of trade which, before the war, was almost invariably against Japan, has now swung in her favour. It was in her favour to the extent of yen 175,000,000 (£17,924,818) in 1915, and we learn from another source that it is expected to be double that amount in 1916. The reasons for this improvement are thus pithily stated:—

A large sale of munitions to Russia and the other Allies and increase in exportation to India, the South Seas, and Australia, which were hitherto under the influence of the belligerent powers, together with a sudden fall in our import trade, brought about a heavy excess of exports in our overseas trade. The second reason is the flourishing condition of our shipping business; it is quite natural that when a great dearth of bottoms was caused everywhere by the requisitioning for war purposes of the vessels of the belligerent powers, our shipping business alone has become extremely brisk. This fact, together with the prosperity of our export trade, made our international trade balance very favourable to this country and led to a marked increase in our specie holdings in the foreign markets, those facts naturally tended to an abundance of capital in our home markets.

The Government resolved to utilise its specie abroad as far as circumstances permitted, to reduce the foreign debts which were approaching maturity, and also to regulate the domestic money market; and made a plan for redeeming foreign loans to the amount of yen 30,000,000 (£3,072,826) annually from the financial year 1915-16. The redemption for that year has already been carried out. Moreover, the foreign loans which were converted in the same year into domestic loans amounted to yen 40,000,000 (£4,007,101).

The deposits in banks and postal savings have greatly increased. All manufacturing

industries, especially ship-building, iron and other metal industries, and chemical, glass, leather and match industries, are experiencing a prosperity that they have never before enjoyed.

WINSTON CHURCHILL ON GERMANY.

"It is now clear that Germany in 1917 will make an effort to escape the consequences of her crimes surpassing in its formidable paroxysms all that has gone before." So prophesies Mr. Winston Churchill, M.P., in *The London Magazine* for January. "Let us," he adds, "above all things not underrate the shock that is to be anticipated, or the effort that will be required to meet it and beat it down":—

The German armies to-day are larger and more powerful than they have ever been. The number of divisions which Germany maintains in contact with her enemies has certainly risen in the last few months, and will probably be still further increased before the spring. They certainly cannot number now much less than two hundred and twenty-five. The reserves of man-power which she has available will undoubtedly permit her to maintain these immense forces in continuous activity throughout the coming year, even if the 1918 and 1919 classes of recruits, each six hundred thousand strong, are not thrown in, as thrown in they will undoubtedly be before the struggle ends. The mortal peril of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria and their extreme need force these countries to yield themselves unresistingly to the martial domination of Prussia. Poland may supply additional resources. Everything will be controlled by "Main Headquarters." German authority and German thoroughness will regulate minutely the war energies of her struggling allies. German commanders will lead their armies, German plans will govern their actions. This centralised, uniform, all-embracing war direction will not become less competent as the conflict swells towards its fateful culmination.

This prodigious military effort will be supported by the greatest manifestations of submarine activity at sea and by strenuous attempts to regain aerial supremacy.

LABOUR AFTER THE WAR.

Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., who commenced his working career as a compositor and is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, contributes to *Farrow's Bank Gazette* an outspoken article on "Industry after the War." He declares that our industrial system is capable of almost indefinite developments, but insists that to obtain this we must have tolerable understanding and mutual goodwill between em-

ployers and workers. He concludes his article in this way:—

Labour demands may be stated thus: "Adequate wages and regular employment." It is patent that these can be forthcoming only if industry prospers. Consequently, in return for fair treatment labour must yield its best; the discoveries of mechanical science must be readily accepted, and practices which unduly restrict production must be abandoned. Our works must be equipped with the latest and best devices; processes must be organised as perfectly as possible, and the workers must co-operate therewith in a spirit of willingness to get the utmost out of these industrial means. Labour is entitled to demand that wealth produced shall be distributed equitably among its producers. But it must be remembered that limited production is not compatible with rising standards of life. The ability to sell in world-markets is conditioned by the percentage that the cost of materials and labour bear to prices attainable. If we are to get level with our chief competitors it must be on the basis of what is called "quantity production." American manufacturers have shown that high wages conduce to that individual efficiency which is the foundation of a rigorous economic development. Unless like results are produced in this country, Great Britain will be dethroned from its commercial eminence. British workers are capable of as high skill and productivity as those of any other race. Give them the assurance that wages will be proportionate to effort, and that employment will be regularised, then it may be confidently anticipated that the nation will be proved fitted to survive because of the quality of its working units.

"YOURS TRULY," — OR?

In *System*, Mr. David Morantz explains how, some time ago, on the receipt of a letter from a business concern which sold encyclopædias, he was impressed with the manner in which the communication closed. Instead of "Yours truly," or "Very truly yours," the letter ended thus: "Perpetually yours for the Perfect Reference System." Since then he has taken particular pains to notice how other men closed their letters. He inventoried five hundred

letters, and classified them, with the following results:—

- 135, or 27 per cent., closed with "Yours very truly";
- 60, or 12 per cent., closed with "Sincerely yours";
- 54, or 11 per cent., closed with "Yours truly";
- 54, or 11 per cent., closed with "Cordially yours";
- 54, or 11 per cent., closed with "Very truly yours";
- 26, or 5 per cent., closed with "Yours respectfully";
- 21, or 4 per cent., closed with "Respectfully yours";
- 21, or 4 per cent., closed with "Yours sincerely";
- 5, or 1 per cent., closed with "Your sincere friend";
- 5, or 1 per cent., closed with "Very truly";
- 5, or 1 per cent., closed with "Very sincerely yours."

This meant that of the 500 letters 440 (or 88 per cent.) used stock phrases. Only 12 per cent. utilised the opportunity of closing their communications with interesting phrases, of which the following are samples:—

"Yours for Tempting Typography": a printer;

"Yours for Less Ledger Labour": a manufacturer of an automobile ledger;

"Advertisingly yours": an advertising man;

"Yours at the Receiver": a grocer soliciting telephone orders;

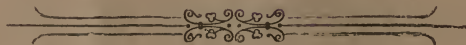
"Yours for Efficiency and Economy": an adding machine manufacturer;

"Yours on the Jump": a real estate man;

"Yours for Clean Cylinders and a Fast Engine": a manufacturer of a device for removing carbon;

"Yours for Stickers that Stick": a manufacturer of gummed stickers.

The above are methods which, in the writer's opinion, show how it is possible to improve letters in a small but effective way.



CATECHISM OF THE WAR—XXXVII.

Q.—Would it not be a good thing to construct the Channel Tunnel and use German prisoners for the purpose?

A.—There has been a strong demand for the making of this tunnel since the war began. Major-General Sir Reginald Talbot, for instance, has been earnestly advocating it in the press, and Sir A. Conan Doyle has seconded his efforts. It is quite obvious that if the tunnel now existed it would be of immense value to the Allies, although it is conceivable that it could be destroyed by hostile submarines. As, however, it would take at least ten years to construct the tunnel, it could not possibly be of any use during the present war. The German prisoners might, of course, be utilised to some extent in the work, but skilled men would have to be employed largely, and these could hardly be spared either in France or in Great Britain just now, and it is not to be expected that well-trained engineers would be found amongst the enemy captives.

Q.—How many recruits did the Germans expect to get, thanks to the creation of the kingdom of Poland?

A.—According to Dr. Dillon, Hindenburg estimated, in his official report, that he would get from Poland, Lithuania and White Russia no less than 1,300,000 soldiers. Even, says Dr. Dillon, if we allow for excessive optimism, the accession of man power from this source will be considerable.

Q.—Has Turkey raised many soldiers?

A.—There, again, no definite figures are available. It is known, however, that she has put considerably more than the expected million in the field. We have read, of course, about Turks reinforcing Austrian fronts, and about the Bulgars getting many recruits from the Moslem subjects of Tsar Ferdinand.

Q.—Could you tell me the names of the generals engaged in the Roumanian Campaign?

A.—The Roumanian army was under the command of General Averescu, and the Russian troops, estimated at 200,000, were under the general command of General Sakharoff, who himself led the army in the Dobrudja and drove back the enemy upon the defensive position which von Mackensen had carefully prepared 12 miles north of Cernavoda. He made furious attacks, but

failed to dislodge the Bulgarians and Turks who held it. Had they given way the course of the campaign might have been very different. Von Mackensen commanded the southern armies of the enemy, von Falkenhayn the Transylvanian forces—although he is very rarely mentioned by name in the German communiques—and Archduke Carl was nominally in charge of the army which pushed into Moldavia over the mountains.

Q.—What other generals were there?

A.—The right wing of von Falkenhayn's army was led by Lieut.-General Kuehne, the centre by Lieutenant-General Krafft von Delmensingen, and the left wing, consisting of Austro-Hungarians for the most part, by Lieutenant-General von Morgen. He stood for some time on the defensive, but when the time came pushed forward and seized Campulung. To the north of him, from the Buzeu River to Bukowina, General Arz was in command, and in the wooded Carpathians, General von Koevass guarded, and apparently still guards, the Joblonitza, Kirlibaba, and Dorna Watra passes. The commander-in-chief in that region is Archduke Joseph, who took charge when Archduke Carl became Emperor. General Kosch was, under von Mackensen, in command of the Danubian army, and with him were Lieutenant-General von Knobelsdorf, and the cavalry leader, General von Schmettow, whose rapid movements completed the union between the Falkenhayn and Mackensen armies, and compelled the abandonment of the defensive lines before Bucharest. The names of the Bulgarian and Turkish generals operating in the south and in the Dobrudja do not appear in the official communiques.

Q.—Were there many big battles in Roumania?

A.—Several. The most momentous were the battle of Targu Jiu, fought on November 17 and 18 by General Kuehne, which broke Roumanian resistance in western Wallachia, and gave the enemy Craiova, and the battle west of Bucharest, fought on December 1, 2 and 3, which smashed the Roumanian army and compelled it to retreat east of the capital, and finally cross the Sereth. The battle in which the Bulgars and Turks repulsed General Sakharoff, in the Dobrudja, on December 2, was

also important in the effect it had on the campaign generally.

Q.—Could you tell me how many war factories there are now in Great Britain?

A.—In December last the Minister of Munitions announced that the total number of controlled establishments in the United Kingdom was 4585.

Q.—For how long does the Swiss President hold office?

A.—The President of the Swiss Republic has probably less power than any other ruler in Europe. He is elected for one year only by the members of the Federal Assembly, a body composed of the National and State Councils. He may not hold office for two years in succession. The present President is M. Edmund Schulthens. His annual salary is £540. The general election of representatives takes place every three years, and every citizen of the Republic who has reached his twenty-first year is entitled to a vote, but thus far women have not been given the franchise in Switzerland. The President is not allowed to pay or receive State visits, must not leave the Republic during his term of office. When the Kaiser, some years ago, visited the President he was received and entertained at a railway hotel, as the Chief Magistrate of Switzerland has no official residence.

Q.—Is synthetic indigo being manufactured in Great Britain now?

A.—The first supplies were made in England in December last at the Ellesmere Port works, which were formerly owned by Germans. These works were sold last August, and are now turning out British-made synthetic indigo.

Q.—Have you any particulars of the price of provisions in Great Britain?

A.—Prices have gone up very greatly during the last few months. Some interesting particulars as to the cost of Christmas dinners were published recently in London. A large turkey cost £2 2s., geese were very scarce, and brought 1s. 5d. per pound; a brace of English pheasants could not be obtained under 15s. Before the war such birds cost 7s. a pair. Hares were bought for 6s. 6d., and wild ducks for 4s. 6d. each. A fowl cost 5s. 6d., and a duck from 5s. to 7s. 6d. Beef was selling at 1s. 10d. a pound, and mutton for from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. Fish, too, was dear, soles fetching 2s. a pound, and a fair-sized smoked haddock cost 2s. 6d. Fruit was expensive last December, and its cost is likely to be almost prohibitive under the new regula-

tions Mr. Lloyd George has introduced. At Christmas time oranges were selling at 2s. 6d. a dozen, and grapes from 4s. to 8s. a pound. Mistletoe and holly, owing to the difficulty of collection, sold at Covent Garden market for just about twice the price obtained before the war.

Q.—Have the Germans been able to find a substitute for wool and cotton?

A.—They claim to have done so, and obviously they must be using something, as all supplies of cotton they can get from Asia Minor would certainly be used in the making of explosives, and although they will, no doubt, have obtained considerable quantities of wool from Bulgaria and Turkey, these countries could not possibly have sent them anything like the amount of wool they formerly obtained from abroad. The plant from which the fibre is obtained, which is being used by spinners and weavers in Germany instead of cotton, wool, and jute, is called the typha, and is a sort of cat-tail that grows extensively in marshes. The 1916 crop was estimated as high as six million tons, and the yield of the finished product is 10 per cent. of this. Leading German merchants and bankers have subscribed capital for the manufacture of the new cloth. One good feature of the typha is that it flourishes on land too poor for the growing of cereal crops. It can be harvested from June until the frosts come.

Q.—Could you tell me what sum the "Loan of Victory" realised in France?

A.—The subscriptions totalled £620,000,000. As, however, it was issued at 87, this means that the total amount of money received was £539,000,000. The loan brings in 5½ per cent.

Q.—Have the French raised any further loan?

A.—Yes. They raised another one last year, which brought in £460,000,000, of which rather more than half was new money. The greater part of this fresh money came from the provinces, and included much gold which had been hoarded by the peasants.

Q.—How many men has Great Britain under arms?

A.—That is not known definitely, but on December 14 last measures were taken in the British House of Commons to raise 1,000,000 more men of all ranks during the present fiscal year, that is to say, before March 31, 1917. It was then mentioned that this would make a total of 5,000,000 men for the war. To these must be added

the colonial armies and the contingents from India.

Q.—When was it stated that Great Britain's average war expenditure had exceeded £5,000,000 per day?

A.—Mr. Bonar Law made the announcement on December 14, 1916, when he asked for the fourteenth war credit. He said then that the daily expenditure was £5,710,000, and it was on the assumption that this rate would not increase that he assumed the credit of £400,000,000 he was asking for would enable them to carry on until February 24. Actually it would seem that rather more money was needed than this.

Q.—Are the Belgians a homogeneous race?

A.—There are two distinct peoples in Belgium—the Walloons and the Flemings. The Walloons dwell, or dwelt, in the provinces of Hainault, Namur, Liege and parts of Luxemburg and South Brabant. A few live in the French departments of Nord and Ardennes. As the name indicates, they were originally strangers in the land—the Welsh of the country. They resemble the French in vivacity and adaptability. There are about 2,600,000 of them, and their native tongue is French. The Flemings live in Flanders, and at one time were an important industrial, autonomous community. Their country was bounded by the Scheldt, the North Sea and the Somme and has always been much fought over, but nevertheless has always preserved active industrial interests. About 3,500,000 Flemings live in Belgium. Their language may be described as a sort of southern Dutch. Some 2,800,000 speak nothing else, but a large number are bilingual.

Q.—Which is the faster boat, a battle-cruiser or a destroyer?

A.—Destroyers are the speediest craft afloat, some having exceeded 35 knots on their trials. The swiftest battle-cruisers were designed to develop 28 knots (32½ miles) per hour.

Q.—What was the strength of the British Army when the war broke out?

A.—The professional army, the only force available at that time, was 162,000 strong. The total regular strength with the British colours was about 250,000. The Army Reserve numbered 145,000, the Special Reserve 81,000. The Territorial force had a peace establishment of 316,000, but was short of this by 50,000; the National Reserve numbered 200,000. The British Expeditionary Force began to cross to France

on August 7th, and by the 17th of that month the whole of it, some 150,000 strong, was across the Channel. Most of the troops were embarked at Southampton, and, as the weather was calm, were packed on the Channel steamers, which, for the most part, did the work. One Atlantic liner took no fewer than 3000 men on a single trip. They crossed unconvoyed, there being at that time no danger from the German fleet.

Q.—How many British were there at the Battle of Mons?

A.—Sir John French had two army corps with him, roughly 75,000 men with 250 guns. During that fight and in the retreat to the Marne, some 17,000 men were taken prisoners, and the losses in killed and wounded were severe. When the offensive began at the Marne French had been reinforced by the third army corps, but altogether he probably had only 100,000 men under his command at that time.

Q.—Is it a fact that Lord Chelmsford's family name is Thesiger, and that his ancestors, two generations back, were Germans from Frankfort-on-the-Main?

A.—The present Lord Chelmsford is the third Baron. His grandfather was Frederic Thesiger, twice Lord Chancellor of England, whose brother, Sir Frederic Thesiger, was Naval A.D.C. to Nelson at Copenhagen. The first Baron's father was a Saxon gentleman who had migrated to England, where he became Secretary to Lord Rockingham. The German strain in the present Viceroy of India is, therefore, very slight.

Q.—Have British subjects of enemy origin a right to vote at a Federal Election?

A.—At the moment they have, but Mr. Hughes has indicated that before Parliament is dissolved legislation will be brought in to deprive citizens of enemy origin of their votes. As a wife takes on the nationality of her husband in the eye of the law, the wives of British subjects of alien origin will presumably also be disfranchised, no matter whether they were British born or not.

Q.—What separation allowance is given in Great Britain?

A.—There has recently been talk of revising the amounts, but at the end of 1916 the wife of a private received 12s. 6d. weekly, and 5s. for the first child, 3s. 6d. for the second, 3s. for the third, and 2s. for the fourth. That is to say, a woman with four children got 25s. a week. If she had more children she drew 2s. extra a week for each. In addition, the husband by paying

so much daily out of his meagre pay can secure special allowances based on pre-war dependence. If this is fixed at 3s. a week he must make a daily payment of one penny, if at 5s. 2d. per day, if at 7s. 6d. 3d. per day, if at 9s. 6d. 4d. per day, if at 11s. 6d. 5d. per day, and above that 6d. per day.

Q.—You mentioned in a recent Catechism that 10,807 Chinese and 2789 Japanese were admitted into the Commonwealth during the last five years. How is that possible under our present restrictions?

A.—The figures are taken from Mr. Knibbs' Year Book. Presumably these 10,807 are not new immigrants, but are Chinese who at some time or another left Australia with permits authorising them to return. That is to say, they were resident here before the Immigration Restriction Act came into force. At the 1911 census it was shown that there were 34,838 pure-blooded Asiatics in Australia, distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 10,983; Victoria, 5972; Queensland, 9123; South Australia, 1049; West Australia, 5578; Northern Territory, 1594; Tasmania, 532.

Q.—Early in the war cables told of the use of Siberian troops in East Prussia. How was it possible for them to get there, across thousands of miles, so quickly?

A.—We do not know for certain that these were Siberian troops. Then, although the troops of the Russian Empire are more or less territorialised, that is to say, draw their recruits from particular districts, it is not customary to garrison the frontier provinces with locally raised troops. In Finland, for instance, Siberian troops are usually to be found, and in the Baltic Provinces the garrisoning soldiery come from distant parts of Russia.

Q.—How many cables are there across the Atlantic?

A.—There are seventeen altogether. It is interesting to recall that there were in 1897 1300 submarine cables, with a total length of 162,000 miles, and to find that by 1915 the number had increased to 2987, and the mileage to 293,301.

Q.—How big is the earth?

A.—It has an area of 196,791,000 square miles, and its cubic contents are 259,944,035,515 cubic miles. The equatorial diameter is 7926 miles, and the axial diameter is 7899 miles. The equatorial circumference is 24,899 miles, and the meridional circumference 24,857 miles. The speed of rotation at the equator is 1037 miles per hour, and the length of its orbit round the sun is 584,000,000 miles, from which its distance averages 92,900,000 miles. It travels along this orbit at the rate of 18½ miles a second, about 66,000 miles an hour.

Q.—How many planets are there?

A.—Eleven in all, including the three little ones—Eros, Ceres and Achilles. Of the others, Mercury, Mars and Venus are all smaller than the earth, but Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are immensely larger.

Q.—Can you tell me what wages are paid in China?

A.—Mr. J. P. Donovan gives some interesting particulars about that in *The Empire Review*. He says:—"The Chinese workman is industrious, thrifty and temperate, and can adapt himself to all circumstances. Owing to the vast population and the struggle for existence labour is both cheap and plentiful. Although the cost of labour has risen in China, as in other countries, during the past twenty years, it is still low when compared with what is paid for the same kind in either Europe or America. Ordinary labourers receive from 12s. to 18s. a month, while the wages of skilled labourers and mechanics rarely exceed from £2 to £3 a month. In the Hanyang steel works, which was started by the Viceroy Chang-Chih-tung and where some 5,000 men are employed, ordinary labourers receive 12s. a month. Women reelers in the silk filatures in Shanghai earn less than 1s. a day for eleven hours' work. Generally speaking labourers in the interior are paid 6d. to 9d. a day, for which they work from ten to twelve hours."





NATIONAL EFFICIENCY

TRAINING WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND SKILL.

By J. A. BUTLER.

In times like these, when employers generally are inclined to think that in view of the attitude of the trade unions, and the present industrial outlook generally, discussions on labour matters possess only academic interest, it might be suggested to each employer to try to train and retain for his own work the type of employee that would be most profitable. Mr. H. L. Gantt, the well-known expert on scientific management, in his book, "Work, Wages and Profits," says: "I have done much to train and educate workmen, and consequently have seen the far-reaching results that would follow if manufacturers in general would adopt a policy of teaching and training the workmen they need." Mr. Gantt graduated in scientific management in the machine shop of a big steel works in Philadelphia, and afterwards applied his knowledge to the improvement of methods in various industries. In 1905 he was engaged by a cotton weaving mill to make their labour more efficient. As in many of the American cotton mills, the superintendent and foremen had been imported from England or Scotland, and were accordingly averse to changes, as they felt that the way things had been done in the old country could hardly be improved on. After awhile, however, it was possible to get a time and record system established, and a knowledge of reliable costs soon followed. The attempt to introduce efficiency was continued, but not much was done beyond getting the cost system into operation. The work was then relinquished. In 1908 the little that had been effected was found so beneficial that the company asked Mr. Gantt to take the matter up again, saying they had a new superintendent who was in sympathy with improved methods, and that the worst foremen were gone.

EFFICIENCY IN WEAVING.

Four new looms were placed under a weaver from Poland, and a trained observer with a stop-watch stood by him, and studied all his motions in detail. It was

observed how the skilful weaver stopped and started the loom, how he removed the empty bobbin from the shuttle and put in a new one, how he tied the knot. It was calculated how long the loom had to be stopped in a day, and, consequently, what portion of time it should be actually weaving. No time was allowed for "loom out of order" or "no filling," or any other cause that might be eliminated. Precautions were taken to have the looms in good order, and proper filling always at hand, and a task was set on the supposition that all removable obstacles should be removed, and a substantial bonus was offered for its accomplishment. The task was expressed as a percentage of the total number of picks the loom would throw if it ran all day without any stop. The task set was greater than the best weaver had been able to accomplish regularly before special provision had been made to remove the obstacles.

MACHINERY FAULTS.

The three next best weavers in the mill, who happened to be Greeks, were selected to work under the instructions of the Pole. The first of them refused to be instructed, and was allowed to continue in his own way. The other two Greeks proceeded with the task under the Pole's teaching, and with the efficiency observer to note the number of picks each loom threw per hour, and to remove obstacles. The first day both men failed to earn the bonus, but on the second and third days they came so close to it that it was allowed them. The observer, however, was convinced that the looms were not just right, and that the warps and filling were not coming in a satisfactory manner. The weavers were therefore put on to day work for about a week, while special attention was paid to getting these defects remedied.

A RULE-OF-THUMB MAN.

When the two Greeks came on to piece-work again the one who had at first refused to learn the new methods was anxious to

join in, and all three very quickly came up to the bonus standard and remained there. It was necessary, however, for the efficiency observer to be constantly on hand to keep a record of their work hour by hour, for he would frequently find some loom falling behind, which, if not looked after, would cause the weaver to lose his bonus. The Polish expert weaver quickly remedied defects when the lagging loom was pointed out to him, but he seldom noticed the slow movement at first. The Pole, like many supervisors, was at first very slow in making complaints if anything was wrong, but a bonus to him of six cents a day for each weaver who made his bonus, and ten cents each if all made bonus, gradually taught him to look out for their interests and his own. It took the entire time for several weeks of Mr. Gantt's assistant, who was observing the work, to get the conditions such that no obstacle would arise which the Pole could not remove. The Pole was an excellent weaver, but he had been trained amid rule-of-thumb conditions, and was inclined to be stoical rather than fussy when things went wrong, so as to help in the preservation of general peace and quietness. Hitherto he had always done the best he could without disturbing the smoothly-working routine of those over him. The system of making the best of things had in fact become so ingrained, that even with the example of the efficiency observer and the incentive of a bonus, it was some time before he realised that he was expected to assert himself in his own interests, which were now identical with the interests of the firm. When the twelve best weavers had been initiated into the bonus system, under the Pole, another gang, comprising many less skilful men, was organised under an Irishman, and there was considerable delay in developing general enthusiasm for the task system. The wisdom of having selected the ablest operatives to make the beginning was now obvious. Time is needed to overcome prejudice and change habits, but in time the piecework with instruction and reward for learning the lessons taught was successful, and the wages, profits and contentment in the factory all increased.

TRAINING ALL ASSISTANTS.

The next class of work taken in hand at the cotton mill was winding weaving bobbins, for putting in the shuttles. As the machine ran at a constant speed, spools emptied more quickly with coarse than with finer yarn. It was necessary to make a de-

tailed study of the different rates, and this took about six weeks. It was then possible to set a proper task. The first girl selected to try this task stayed at home for a week, but then came to work willing to do as desired, and was surprised at the ease with which she succeeded. Mr. Gantt's frank confession of early difficulties when the task system was introduced on this work is instructive:—

In spite of the fact he writes that our observer was constantly on hand to remove difficulties and to see to the workers having every facility. A large proportion of the first ones failed to earn the bonus regularly, and gradually left. Many of these were girls who evidently found continuous attention to their work irksome, and, even though they were capable of doing the work, preferred the more free and easy method to which they had been accustomed. Others showed but little ability to do the work or to learn. From records kept, however, it was evident that the larger the number of the bonus workers in the mill, the faster the new ones learned, and this is a matter of great psychological importance. There is in every workroom a fashion, a habit of work, and the new worker follows that fashion, for it is not respectable not to. The man or woman who ignores fashion does not get much pleasure from associating with those who follow it, and the new member consequently tries to fall in with the sentiment of the community. The stronger the sentiment in favour of industry, the harder the new member tries and the sooner he succeeds. We must, therefore, make our reward for good work such as to encourage the habit, or fashion, of industry.

Anyone who will glance at Mr. Gantt's charts will see at once to what extent he has succeeded in fixing this habit. By permission of the management of the mill, a chart was published three years later, showing that every operative filling bobbins earned the bonus nearly every day, and the quality of the work was always "taken care of" by the weaver who received poor bobbins refusing to use them.

HOW THE BONUS WORKED.

Even with the girls inspecting cloth and mending slight defects in weaving, trimming ends, etc., which is high-grade work, a task system was started after careful study, and while most of the girls showed the ability to perform the task only two did it with any degree of regularity. Three girls left through unwillingness to maintain the high standard of quality set, but came back in a few days and soon became very proficient. All the girl inspectors had the heavy cloth handled for them by three men, and in order that these men should be as helpful as possible in supplying and removing

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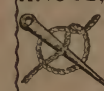
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work, they were paid 2 cents per day for each girl that made the bonus. Subsequently, it was decided to give the boss weaver a bonus. Although he was an excellent man and was doing his work well throughout, it was felt that his bonus ought to depend on the quality of the work turned out. Inasmuch as the better the cloth was when it came from the weaving room, the easier the task of the inspectors (and their mending) would be, the boss weaver's bonus was fixed in proportion to the number of inspectors that earned bonus. The inspectors then began to earn bonus with great regularity, for the boss weaver found that the girl inspectors were only too anxious to point out defects which it was to his interests to have corrected. He visited the inspector's room frequently during each day, and by the reports he got kept closely in touch with what his weavers were doing. The result was a continuous improvement in the quality of their work.

TRAINING WORKMEN GENERALLY.

The general policy in the past for getting big results has been to drive, but the efficiency experts want the era of knowledge to displace that of force. They wish to teach and lead—not drive. Any vision, however, of workmen as a body showing eagerness to co-operate in carrying out the results of scientific investigations must be dismissed as a dream of the millennium, but the results that have been already achieved indicate that nothing is likely to do more to bring about that millennium than training workmen in habits of industry and co-operation.

Under the Gantt system each man has his work assigned to him in the shape of a task to be done by a prescribed method, with definite appliances and to be completed in a certain time. The task is based on a detailed investigation by a trained expert of the best methods of doing the work. The task-setter or his assistant acts as an instructor to teach the workmen to do the work in the manner and time specified. If

the work is done in the time allowed, and is up to the standard for quality, the workman receives a substantial extra compensation in addition to his day's pay. Otherwise he receives only his day's pay. Workmen trained under this system acquire the habit of doing a large amount of work well, and disprove the oft-repeated fallacy that good work must be done slowly. "As a matter of fact," writes Mr. Gantt, "our quickest workers nearly always do the best work when following instructions. The task and the bonus enable us to utilise our knowledge and maintain our standards, and the setting of tasks, after a scientific investigation, must necessarily increase our knowledge and standardise it. This brings to our assistance the clearest thinkers and hardest workers in any organisation. Our greatest help, however, comes from the workmen themselves. The most intelligent soon realise that we really mean to help them advance themselves, and the ambitious ones welcome the aid of our instructor to remove obstacles that have been in their way for perhaps years. As soon as one such man has earned his bonus for several days there is usually another man ready to try the task, and unless there is a great lack of confidence on the part of the men in the management, the sentiment rapidly grows in favour of our task work."

"The task and bonus system of pay is really a combination of the best features of both day and piecework. The workman is assured of his day rate, while being taught to perform his task, and as the bonus for its accomplishment is a percentage of the time allowed, the compensation when the task has been performed is a fixed quantity, and is thus really the equivalent of a piece rate. The method of payment is therefore piece rate for the skilled and day rate for the unskilled, it being remembered that if there is only work enough for a few it will be given to the skilled. This acts as a powerful stimulus to the unskilled, and all who have any ambition try to get into the bonus class."

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS QUARTER.

In view of the remarkable trade boom experienced in United States of America during 1916, it is not surprising that the number of banking suspensions in that country was considerably lower during the year just closed than during the previous twelve months, the totals being 50 and 133 respec-

tively. The aggregate liabilities in 1916 represented 10,396,779 dols., and in 1915 37,223,234 dols. In 1914 there were 212 failures, the liabilities in that year totalling 56,005,107 dols., so that the diminution since before the war is substantial. Insolvencies during the twelve months ended 31st

December last aggregated 16,993, as compared with 22,156 during 1915. Canadian insolvencies in 1916 numbered 1685, as against 2661 in the previous year, and 2898 in 1914.

* * *

During the years 1915 and 1916 the national banks of U.S.A. added to their resources an amount nearly equal to the entire resources of the 14,598 State Banks (not including Savings Banks) in operation in June, 1915, the total in November last being 15,520,000,000 dols., representing an increase of 4,028,000,000 dols., or over 35 per cent. in about two years. Some idea of the colossal strength of the American financial institutions can be gathered from the fact that at the end of 1916 the aggregate resources of the national banks exceeded by about 1,000,000,000 dols., the combined resources of the Bank of England, Bank of France, Bank of Russia, the German Reichsbank, the Bank of Italy, Bank of Spain, Bank of the Netherlands, Bank of Denmark, Swiss National Bank and Imperial Bank of Japan.

* * *

As a natural corollary to the abnormal commercial and industrial activity, the production of coal in the States during 1916—597,500,000 tons—was the greatest on record for that country, the previous highest record being established in 1913, when the total taken from the earth was 570,000,000 tons. Exports of merchandise were valued at 4,961,246,815 dols., imports at 2,186,821,703 dols., the trade balance, therefore, being favourable to the enormous extent of 2,774,425,113 dols., an unprecedented figure in American annals. In the previous year the excess of exports over imports totalled 1,588,600,295 dols.; in 1914, 193,372,036 dols., and in 1913, 642,251,755 dols. Whether, during the current year, the progress evidenced above will be maintained is at the time of writing exceedingly problematical, and will depend entirely upon the outcome of the "delicate" submarine issue.

* * *

Prior to 1915, America was a debtor nation. The exigencies of the war have, however, resulted in a remarkable change in this connection. Money from other nations flowed into New York to such an extent that more than once last year serious statements were made by persons of authority with regard to the probability of New York displacing London as the financial hub of the universe! At the end of

December last over 2,000,000,000 dols. in foreign loans, were outstanding in U.S.A., the total having been added to by about 1,500,000,000 dols. during 1916. In the same year, gold importations, comprised 675,000,000 dols., an increase of 230,000,000 dols. in comparison with the intake of gold in 1915. During the twelve months under review, exchange rates on London varied about only 1 per cent. in the pound, showing a range of 4.75 $\frac{3}{8}$ to 4.76 $\frac{1}{2}$. Most of the time it was 4.76, which came to be regarded as "war parity," as against 4.8665 normal.

* * *

Japan has proved very useful to the Allies in the financial as well as in other spheres. Her ability to embrace the unique trade opportunity which came her way as a result of the war, has provided the Eastern country with considerable funds, and, like America, to a lesser degree, she is proving a "happy hunting ground" for international borrowers. In a recent interview, the Japanese Vice-Minister of Finance admitted the correctness of the rumour to the effect that another loan of about £20,000,000 had of late been proposed by Russia, and it was now receiving attention among Tokyo bankers. The Minister indicated that Russia's object in raising money there was not understood yet, no one knowing whether the proposed credit was issued to redeem the old issues maturing or to cover her new purchases in the country. The Government would be guided by the opinion of bankers as to whether the market at the present time could afford to spare the capital desired by Russia.

* * *

The Chinese authorities have, with great persistence, for some time past been endeavouring to float loans in various countries, but the response has generally been very frigid; in fact, some of the Powers refused point blank to grant any financial support to those in authority in China, a decision which was not very surprising in view of the disturbed condition of the country. It is therefore interesting to learn that the Industrial Bank of Japan has decided to accept the proposal from the Communications Bank in Peking for the loan of 5,000,000 yen (about £500,000). It is understood that the borrowing bank will offer all securities held by it as security, while an interest of 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum will be paid, the term of redemption being three years.



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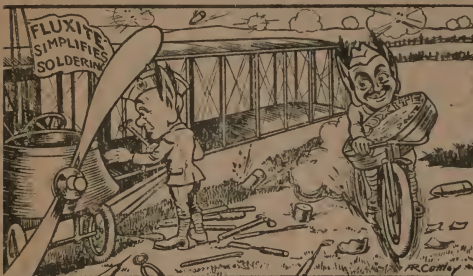
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Dear Sir,—I received your letter inquiring after my condition, and am pleased to tell you that my legs are all right again. I knocked the shin bone where it was previously sore, and broke the skin, and feared that the old condition might return, but your prompt reply to my request for ointment enabled me to check the trouble before it developed. I am very pleased to say that I will not require any more ointment from you. You will be pleased to hear that the veins previously so swollen and enlarged have entirely disappeared from sight and touch, as you promised they would, and all that is to be noticed is a slightly blue tinge of the skin above where they used to exist, owing probably to the discolouration of the tissue from very long duration. My legs have never bothered me in the least since I discontinued the treatment, and thanking you again,—I remain, yours sincerely,

MRS. H. CLARKE.

Manager, Vecsey.

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Dear Sir,—After twenty years' suffering from bad Varicose Veins your treatment has given me back the use of my legs, comfortable and free from pain, and my gratitude can be better imagined than described. Since beginning the treatment, and ever since I completed it, I have noticed a vast difference in my heart action; my circulation is greatly improved, and I feel better in every respect. Prior to the treatment my heart was very bad. There is no doubt that the treatment is not only harmless, but it is wonderful as well.—Yours gratefully,

V. J. JARDINE.

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Dear Sir,—I am sorry that I did not write you sooner. Since I received the last lot of treatment I have gone on splendidly, and my leg is quite well now, and I am very pleased to tell you that I do not require further treatment for it. However, you can imagine what pleasure it is to be able to get about again free from pain and with no evidence of the old trouble. The enlarged veins have completely subsided. Before undertaking your treatment the pain was sometimes so excruciating that I could hardly put up with it. I am very grateful to you for your attention and kindness to me during the time I was under treatment.—Yours gratefully,

E. M. McALISTER.

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Nareeb Nareeb, Vic.

Dear Sir,—Re your letter asking if I needed further treatment, I beg to advise that when I told you in my last letter that my leg seemed to be cured I found that I was not mistaken. I did not write further, as there was no necessity, and the money I paid for the treatment would have been well spent had it been ten times the amount. I had not bothered writing again, and I was waiting to see if the results were permanent, and how my leg was getting on, and it is doing splendidly. There are now only a few discoloured patches where the veins formerly existed in large knots, and I have no hesitation in saying that I firmly believe that it is now ENTIRELY CURED and all right again. Thanking you again for your attention and treatment.—I remain, yours truly,

(Signed) MRS. P. A. KELLY.

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